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Reminiscences of the Celestial Empire 40 years ago.

By Rev. Fr. J. D. W. Sewell, S.J.

[*Continued from the September issue, pp. 101-105.*]

Now that I have brought you from Madras to Hong-kong, I must tell you something aboat the Chinese. Everybody has seen a Chinaman with his turn-up shoes, long coat, big hat, and pig-tail. We call him pleasantly *John Chinaman*, or sometimes *Fuccy*, the contraction of a supposed patronymic from Confucius, the name of the old Chinese philosopher who gave his countrymen what they have in the way of religion. John Chinaman at home is not very unlike John Chinaman abroad. He is a very placid, acute, stolid, self-absorbed fellow wherever you meet him, always ready to give and take a joke with a lively sense of humour, and devoid of any regard for conventionalities. He will eat anything, he will go anywhere, he will adapt himself to any conditions that may meet him, and his religion, so far as he has any, sits lightly on him. His wants are few, yet he drives a good bargain and he is always wide-awake. I am speaking of the typical John Chinaman we meet in Madras, on board a ship, in Singapore, Burmah, Australia, America—everywhere.

But in China, besides the typical Chinaman who will turn his hand to anything for the sake of money, and is a carpenter, tailor, shoemaker, horse-keeper, coachman, shopkeeper, boatman, sailor, merchant, or anything you like, there is in China, the cooli, the shop-keeper or comprador, and the mandarin. The Chinaman we meet belongs to the cooli or the merchant or comprador class, according as he has been successful in life or otherwise; the mandarin is not to be seen outside of China, not even in Hong-kong. The mandarins are the nobility of China. They are divided into six grades determined by competitive examinations and known by the colour of the round ivory button worn in their cap. They are, under the Emperor, the rulers and administrators of China. They are very dignified persons indeed. They are wealthy, they never laugh, are never surprised, and are grave and slow in their movements and speech. The comprador is the middleman in buisness, a broker, a head-butler, an accountant. The cooli is practically the comprador's slave.

You have all heard of the Chinese women having very small feet. It is only the well-to-do that can afford this luxury; the cooli woman cannot. the small feet are caused by unnaturally controlling with bandages the growth of the feet of infants so that only the toes will rest upon the ground. The Chinese lady walks in her little shoes about two inches long, with a tottering step which the Celestials think the acme of elegance.

The Chinese language, like all monosllyabic languages, has a very uncouth sound. I heard less Chinese than Pigeon-English. Wherever the European goes in China, it is not Chinese but Pigeon-English that is the means of communication. Even Englishmen themselves get into the habit of speaking it. I remember that the first time I heard Englishmen speaking this jargon, I could not understand even what they were talking about. Pigeon-English arose partly from the inability of the Chinese to utter English sounds. A few samples of Pigeon-English may interest you. The word 'pigeon' is the English word 'business,' as a Chinaman would say it. Then a Chinaman has not an 'r' or a 'v' in any of his monosyllables. So 'very' becomes 'welly'. The 2nd person plural of the indicative present of the French verb '*savoir*' (to know), plays a great rôle in Pigeon-English: it becomes any part of the verb at pleasure. 'I savey, you savey, he savey', 'to savey', etc. Again 'topside' stands for 'above' and 'downside' for 'below'. 'One piece' comes before everything: 'one piece man', ... 'one piece rope', ... 'one piece ship'; and 'man' has to be added to the name of every trade: 'soldierman', 'sailorman', 'carpenterman', etc. 'Chance' is a great word in Pigeon-English in the sense of *luck*. This is the kind of thing Pigeon-English is. "Why for you no go topside that house talkie that sailorman?" ... "I no savey he living topside that house. My got bad chance."

The Chinese are not, as you see, very particular about the English they talk, nor are they at all particular about what they eat. Their staple food is rice, but with, or without rice, they will eat anything. I was present more than once at their curious dinners. They have a great variety of dishes and very dirty customs. They sit round a table, each with a moderate-sized bowl in front of him, a little china cup about the size of a liqueur glass, and a pair of chopsticks beside him. The chopsticks are two pieces of bone or ivory about one foot long and one sixteenth of an inch in diameter. In the centre of the table is a large dish of rice and round it a number of small dishes containing variously prepared dainties. Each person fills his bowl with rice and the dinner begins. The chopsticks are held between the fingers and the thumb of the right hand in a way to form an angle or to serve as a pair of tongs at will. The dishes in the centre are common. Each person seizes with the chopsticks what he requires and transfers it to his mouth or to his bowl. From time to time he raises the bowl with his left hand to his mouth, and then with the chopsticks forming an angle he shovels the rice into his mouth. Not a comely way of eating! All day, weak tea is the Chinaman's beverage, but at dinner he drinks *samshu*, a very intoxicating liquor made from rice. Conversation goes on at intervals with much humour and a good deal of laughter and joking, for the Chinese have a curious game very like our game of 'one-finger-up' which they play at dinner. One man looking at another and attracting his attention holds up his closed hand, and suddenly throws up one or more fingers. The man challenged calls out, "One, two, three, four, or five," as he guesses. If the guess is right, the challenger has to drink off a cup of *samshu*; if wrong, the guesser has to do so. This goes on all dinner-time, and is the cause of untiring amusement. However, they never, so far as I am aware, drink to intoxication. The game is for the fun, not for the *samshu*.

The boat population, or the boat-cooli population, in every Chinese port is

worthy of notice. Chinese ships are all of one pattern, such as we see in pictures, excepting that passenger-boats have a covering at one end. These are shaped like an egg with one quarter of the shell near the end removed.

Every Chinese ship or boat has a pair of big eyes painted on the prow. If you ask a Chinaman, "What use that piece eye?" he will exclaim with astonishment, as one did to me, "Hi! O! What for piece eye? No got eye how can see? No can see how can walkie?" The argument was unanswerable. But the eye-boat, as it is called, not only serves as a means of livelihood, but serves also as a home for a whole family who live in it and rarely go ashore. At night the eye-boats are all moored together and form what is called *the boat town*. At Canton this *boat town* extended for nearly a mile along the banks of the river and about two hundred yards out into the river. The boats are moored in square blocks so as to leave a waterway, looking like a canal, between each block. The boat people are very dirty. They are the water coolies.

The land coolies, who are not much cleaner, are very hardy, strong, and useful. They carry either loads or chairs for people who like to be carried. In Hong-kong there are no animals and no carriages except a very few belonging to merchants. There are not even cows for milk; we had to do without milk in Hong-kong. Why, there was not even a crow. Coolies did the work of animals in other countries. Two coolies carry a sedan-chair. The chair is of basket work between two poles supported by strings with loops at the ends into which the extremities of the poles on which the chair rests are passed, and you hire the chair just as you hire a jut in this place. The cooly ordinarily wears blue cotton trousers, a dirty cotton jacket, and a very large hat kept on by a dirty piece of string; and he does not smell fresh.

The climate of Hong-kong is very pleasant for eight or nine months, but it is terribly hot for the remaining three. This reminds me of a Chinese custom that will amuse you. In other countries when it gets cold, people light fires. A Chinese is more ingenious. When it gets cold he puts on another coat, and then another, and so on, till in the northern parts where the cold is excessive, he puts on some 10 or 15 coats. As the weather gets warmer he takes them gradually off one by one till he is reduced to one coat again. But you will ask, "what does he do to wash?" The answer is simple. He does not wash. However, you will insist perhaps, "Surely the interior of the coats must become crowded with troublesome inhabitants." No doubt, but Fuccy is equal to the occasion. I'll tell you what he does. He carves out of a lump of wood or bone or ivory, a little hand in a scratching position and into the wrist he fixes firmly a whalebone or wooden or ivory handle some two feet long. This is introduced downwards at the neck, and finds occupation, and gives relief to the owner of the coats. A soap merchant you will see is not likely to make a fortune in China. In fact so little are they acquainted with its appearance that on one occasion an officer in the First Chinese War purchased his freedom from some villagers who had captured him by passing himself off as a doctor and giving them some pills which he made before their eyes by cutting up a piece of soap and rolling the bits into pills!! He did not go back to see how his patients were getting on, you may be sure!

The worst and most deadly of a Chinaman's vices is opium smoking. The inside of one of these opium dens is revolting to see. In each of the rooms are two or three alcoves with a wooden trestle-bed and pillow in each. A little table stands close to the head of the bed with the smoking apparatus. Here on each of these cots you see the wretched relics of human beings lying about in various stages of stupefaction. The opium pipe is a short bamboo about a foot long with a little covered bowl of earthenware fitted into an

aperture about an inch from the end. Through the cover of this bowl and through the stem, there is a very small aperture, just large enough for a long thin needle to pass through. The opium, which looks like treacle, is kept in a small glass or china cylindrical vase on a tray on the table. The point of the needle is dipped into the opium and then held over a spirit lamp which soon causes it to swell. It is then worked into a pear-shaped ball, the thin end of which is inserted into the hole in the bowl and the needle withdrawn. It is then ready for use, and the smoker, holding it over the flame of the lamp, inhales the fumes. It is somewhat curious that it takes several pipes to stupefy a new smoker, but only one or two suffice for one who is accustomed to it.

What shall I say of the Chinese character? Well, as it presents itself to the outsider, it is not admirable. Like every oppressed race, the lower and middle orders are selfish and arrant cowards, total strangers to truth, and heartlessly cruel. Along with this is an intense self-satisfaction, an absurd boastfulness among the more enlightened as to the resources and products of their country, a curious contempt for all the rest of mankind, and disregard for life. Apparently a pigtail is a part of the Chinese character; every Chinaman we know has a pigtail. To be without a pigtail is the sum and climax of all that is contemptible to a Chinaman. Their favourite abuse of us used to be, "you tailless foreign devil." The coolie would take a push from a foreigner in the street without a word, but as soon as he got to a safe distance he would turn and cry the usual insult, and then run for his life, often followed by his enemy. Once I saw such a pursuit terminate by the Chinaman running head first into a fruit stall at the side of the pavement, turning himself and the fruit and the old woman who kept it, over into the road. His pursuer, arrested by the comic scene, stood laughing. The victim, assaulted by the fruit woman, and between two foes, was showing by his volubility, gesticulations, and cringing manner, that he was prepared to make any apology as a condition of being allowed to escape with a whole skin.

I said the Chinaman is devoid of truth. It is not so much that, as it is an amusing, uncaring superiority to fact, a cheery, light-hearted indifference to truth and falsehood alike. He is master of both, and favours them impartially as they suit the purpose of the passing moment. Nor is he at all abashed if convicted of an elephantine inaccuracy. I was in a shop one afternoon just as the shopman was preparing to go out, and he did not like being detained by a customer. "Have you any tassar silk?" I asked. "No got," was the stolid, laconic reply. "Where can get?" I said. "Me no know," was the prompt rejoinder. Looking up, I saw a bale of the article just above his head. "Why, you liar," I exclaimed, "there is plenty tassar silk!" "Oh my!", smiled he quite cheerfully; "you catch my. I no got good chance." And then he gave me what I asked.

Another curiosity in China is the way they make their calculations. In every Chinese shop is an abacus, with ten horizontal wires on which are strung large beads, such as you see in primary schools. On each wire there are fifteen beads divided into two sets of five and ten, in each division there being a vertical piece of wood let into the frame separating the two sets. Their coinage is decimal—dollars and cents,—and when you have made your purchases, the shopman totals them on the abacus, the five beads counting for ten and the ten beads for one each. It is very curious to see them calculating. They do it very rapidly. I never could follow them.

I will give you an illustration of their courage. One afternoon, a brother officer and myself went through an archway we had never noticed before, and found ourselves in a little court on one side of which, in a deep recess, under a large wide archway, there stood what is called a 'culio shop,' i.e., a curio or curiosity-shop. Between the pillars of

of the archway was a long, high, broad counter with a wicket door on one side which gave ingress and egress to the interior of the shop, in which at the time were five or six Chinese drinking tea after the business of the day. We asked them to let us see some of the 'culios,' but first they took no notice, and then roughly refused to serve us. My friend, who was tall and slim, put his hands on the counter and vaulted over. No sooner did he put his hands on the counter with an angry ejaculation than they all made for the wicket tumbling over one another. They left us in possession of the shop, and disappeared. While we were laughing and were about to go away, we heard voices and hurried feet approaching, and in rushed about thirty Chinamen headed by an old shopman we knew. He recognised us, stopped, and burst out laughing. All the lot of them then laughed at the six cowards who had run away to call help against the thieves!!"

I will now give you an amusing illustration of their boastfulness. One day a party of us were in a painter's studio overlooking the harbour, when one of us suddenly exclaimed, "Oh, here comes the *Princess Charlotte*." Now, the *Princess Charlotte* was an old 120-gun line-of-battle ship with four tiers of guns, and was being sent out to end her days in Hong-kong as a hospital-ship. So large a battle-ship had never come round the Cape before, had never therefore been seen in China. It was a splendid sight to see the huge monster with four tiers of ports standing high out of the water and working up the harbour under full sail! All went to the window to see. "Ah!" said a young officer with pardonable vanity, "look at that, Fuccy! you see ship like that before?" Fuccy did not lose his presence of mind. "O," replied he without hesitation, "got plenty same like inside China!"

I have said they are oppressed and the coolies little better than slaves. What I meant is this. The taxation is carried on by the Emperor who commands each mandarin to pay so much revenue. Each mandarin taxes the compradors. The comprador "squeezes"—that is the word—the coolies. They cannot pay, so he exacts work without payment from them instead. By the law of China, Chinamen can go for trade to any part of the world, and we know they are found everywhere. Not so their wives; they are not allowed to leave China; they are detained there as guarantees for the safe return of their husbands, who, as soon as they return, are "squeezed," fleeced by the comprador. Our political economists will probably tell me that such a system may collect revenue, but that is not calculated to increase the material prosperity of a country or to make individuals rich! I will not dispute the point.

The cruelty of the Chinese is in proportion to their cowardice. They have no grain of sympathy for one another and will look on and laugh at the injustice or oppression of a neighbour. To see another in distress is with a Chinaman an opportunity not to be lost for getting something out of him. Is a ship in distress on the Chinese coast? Not a soul will help except in robbing it as soon as it becomes a wreck. I have heard there is a law in China that any one saving the life of another becomes liable for his debts which would otherwise have been extinguished. Nice morality, is n't it? When in 1857 we captured Canton, we found a number of wretched prisoners in the jails who had had their legs bored with hot irons and were being left in chains to die of putrified wounds.

One of the most curious characteristics of this curious people is their utter disregard of life, but it is partly accounted for by their superstition. They have, I was told, a belief that it is meritorious to provide for one's family, which is true, and that anyone leaving his family well off will be rewarded in the next world in exact proportion to the amount he left in this. Now five dollars to a Chinese coolie is a big sum. On the outbreak of the great Chinese rebellion of the Taipings in 1854 and

the following years, the Emperor issued an order to Yeb, the governor of the Canton Province, to execute 5000 rebels! Now Yeb was very comfortable at Canton many thousand miles from Pekin where the Emperor was, and he knew no questions would be asked so long as the 5000 heads fell. It would be inconvenient to hunt for rebels who showed no symptoms of offering themselves a willing sacrifice to disturbed order or offended justice. Yeb began by cutting off the heads of all persons who were detained in any of his prisons no matter for what cause they chanced to be there. A twofold advantage was derived from this. He was able to show a clean bill of crime—no prisoners—and save the cost of their food to the State. However, this measure did not provide the requisite 5000 heads. What was to be done? An entirely Chinese idea occurred, simple and, as it proved, effective. Yeb made a proclamation offering a reward of ten dollars a head for every one who was willing to be decapitated. Here was a unique chance for the coolie to gain a splendid recompense in the next world! Yeb had so many applications that the reward had to be reduced to five dollars! You may believe this story as you please. I tell it you as it was told to me, and currently believed. For myself I have never been able to shake myself free of some doubts as to its accuracy. It is certainly, however, very characteristic of their utter disregard for life; and certainly the higher ranks commit suicide on very slight provocation. An officer, an eye-witness, told me that he knew of several mandarins who behaved with the greatest cowardice before the enemy and who, as soon as they got safe away, committed suicide, possibly to avoid certain decapitation for the failure of their enterprize!

I must not omit some description of the Chinese religion, and especially of their funerals. Of their religion I may say I saw nothing beyond a few joss-houses or little temples with a huge image seated inside before which a few incense tapers were burning. I never saw any worshippers. The great festival is the Feast of Dragons, more remarkable for noisy mirth than for any religious ceremony. During the feast which lasted several days, there was every evening a tremendous beating of gongs at stated times. Then boats manned by ten or twelve rowers, and accompanied by other boats with boat-loads of sight-seers, would start and go all about the harbour looking for the dragon. All were dressed in their gayest, and seemed to enjoy the holiday immensely. There were occasional boat-races, accompanied by the most deafening beating of gongs and cymbals. The hunt for the dragon went on into the night with the help of lanterns, and presented a rather pretty sight on the water.

I once attended by invitation a Chinese wake. Someone had died in the house; and when I went in, all were assembled in a large room in the centre of which, on a raised platform, was a large Chinese coffin, a curious-looking thing like a Chinese pagoda turned on its side. The lid was off, so that the face of the dead was visible. I saw no mourners; they were, I suppose, inside. But the guests, who were numerous and crowded the room, were all chatting and laughing, smoking and gambling. Some occasionally lighted pastilles and stuck them on the coffin; this gave a pleasant fragrance to the room. It was not a pleasing scene and I soon came away. I did not see the funeral, which took place next day, but I have seen many other funerals. The first I saw I was much attracted by. I saw a crowd of people all dressed in white—the Chinese mourning colour,—running as if for their lives and carrying on poles a huge box. I had never seen one of their coffins before. It did not occur to me I was looking at a funeral till I saw some women following and weeping. I asked what was the matter. Then I learned that it was a funeral. The crowd was headed by two or three persons with sacks of torn-up paper which they were very active in scattering as they ran; they had much ado to keep ahead of the rest. About the middle of the crowd, as I have said, came the coffin carried on poles. All were

evidently in a great hurry. My friend whom I asked for explanation told me he understood they ran for fear the spirits of the dead should attack them before they could bury the body, and the pieces of paper were propitiatory prayers. I learned that on arrival at the cemetery they bury the dead, but that they exhume the body after a year. The bones are carefully collected, cremated, and placed in a small urn of earthenware or metal, according to the means of the deceased. This urn is then placed in a neat little brick and chunam sepulchre about two feet high and one foot square. Here the relatives bring food for the spirits. The Chinese religion, as you know, is the worship of the ancestors, and this is the only way I saw it manifested.

I have remarked on the want of animal life in Hong-kong. There are, however, dogs. A particular kind of very handsome woolly dog with its mouth black inside, is eaten, and it is said to be very good food. There is an amusing story told of a European traveller enjoying a dish that was served to him in a hotel and asking with satisfaction of the Chinese waiter what it was. Not being able to converse freely, he said in an enquring tone to the waiter, pointing to the dish, "Quack? quack?" meaning of course 'Is it duck?' The Celestial shook his head and said "Bow-wow!" The traveller ate no more. If there is no animal life in Hong-kong, there are insects of all kinds—butterflies beetles, moths, and large bugs. One species of large bug with beautiful gold and green wings sometimes cover a tree and make it look beautiful in the light of the sun. There is such a variety of insects as would make our museum curator envious.

It was while I was in Hong-kong the mutiny in India broke out. Troops that were coming for Canton were diverted to India, so that we had to wait. It was not till Christmas 1857 that the allied forces of the French and English moved up the river against Canton. In 1856 there had been a misunderstanding with the Chinese at Canton, who fired at a Chinese vessel in the English service and carrying the English flag. On being asked for an explanation, they burnt down all the foreign factories belonging to merchants of England, France, Russia, Spain, and America, and would give no satisfaction. We were out of ammunition, and could not, therefore, fight, and had to wait for fresh supplies and troops. At last we were ready, and with seven battalions of infantry, three batteries of artillery, and about sixty vessels of war numbering some 600 big guns, the allies appeared before Canton. Yeb was summoned to surrender; if no answer came before 8 A.M. next day the city would be bombarded. As Yeb treated this message with silent contempt, the bombardment began at the appointed hour. In three hours the city was on fire in three places and a big breach had been made in the walls. The French and English assaulted simultaneously. Before evening the allies were in possession of the city of Canton never before trodden by the foot of the stranger, and Yeb was a prisoner on board an English man-of-war. So utterly was he persuaded of the impregnability of Canton that he was actually surprised trying to climb the wall of his yamen, or palace, when the troops entered. A soldier springing up seized his leg and dragged him back again. Such are the lamentable consequences that always follow a fatuous persistence in persuading oneself against the evidence of reason that an unpalatable truth cannot be true. Sooner or later truth will vindicate itself, and prove that honesty, whether with oneself or any one else, is always the best policy!

Shortly after the capture of Canton, I was invited by a naval friend to accompany him to Canton on a week's leave to see the place. The voyage in the little gunboat was very interesting and occupied about 10 hours. Canton is situated on the left bank of a river of the same name and about eighty miles from its mouth. It is a grand river, being four or five miles broad in some places and never less than a mile. The banks are muddy with extensive paddy fields on either side. The river is not only broad but deep enough for big line-

of-battle ships to go right up to Canton. There are numerous creeks infested with pirates. A river steamer, a few days before, with passengers from Hong-kong to Canton, was attacked by them, and was in great danger; if the shots these villains fired at her had struck her engines, she would have been at their mercy. On arrival at Canton the captain reported the matter to the admiral, who sent H. M. S. *Highflyer*, a 21-gun steam sloop, to look for them. They are not easy to catch, for when there is no prey for them, they are quiet villagers ploughing their lands. It is only when they have a chance of robbing that they turn pirates. But the captain of the *Highflyer* was a cunning man. He hoisted a merchant flag, ran in his guns and shut down the gun-ports, shut down the funnel of the steamer, and went sailing down the river as if he were an old merchant sailing vessel. His trick was successful. Out came about one hundred junks and began firing at the *Highflyer*. He let them go on firing and collect round him. Then he ran out his big guns and let drive at them. He succeeded in destroying or capturing fifty-three junks. They were not troublesome any more.

Canton is surrounded by a high wall about four miles in circumference, with five or six gates, at some of which are tall Chinese pagodas some eight or nine stories high. The streets are paved with stones, but very narrow, and dark, and dirty; so narrow that more than three persons cannot walk abreast. Occasionally you came to a mandarin's yamen, or palace, in a large open square surrounded by a wall. These yamens are generally roomy, and handsome with very fine wood carving. Here and there were also large open spaces used apparently for recreation. The sight of the city from the city walls was curious as illustrating the effects of the bombardment. It seemed as if every house had one or two big holes in its roof where the British and French shells had gone through.

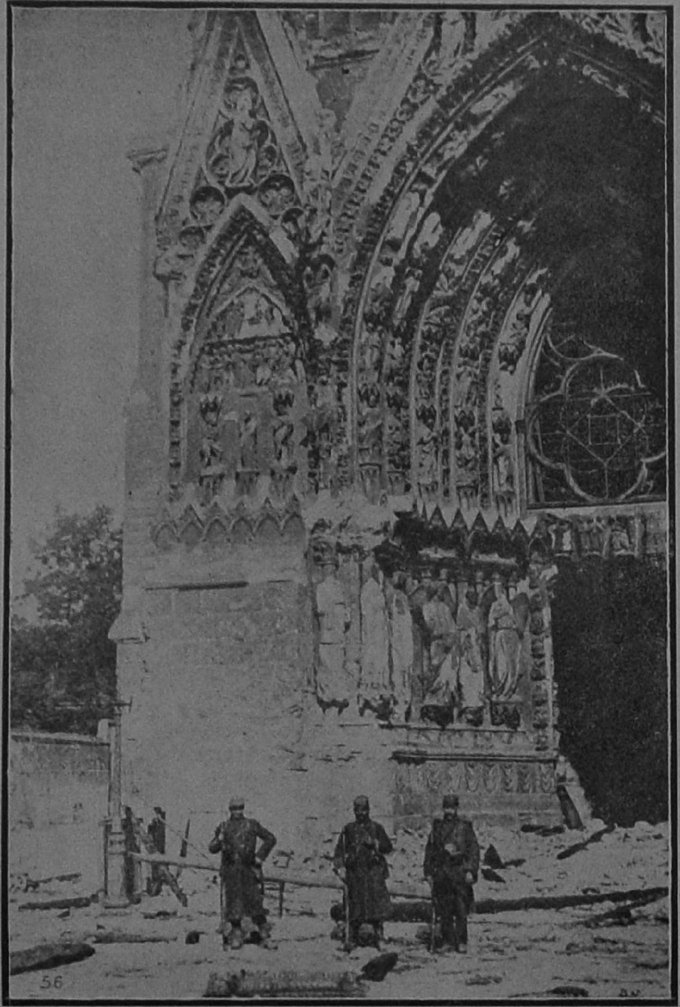
An interesting spot in Canton was the examination buildings where the examinations for the mandarin's degrees are held. There is little chance of copying there. Picture to yourself seven or eight long rows of little rooms, each with a courtyard in front and entered by a single door; the whole surrounded by a high wall. In each row one behind the other, there are eighty or one hundred such little rooms, very like the Colony rooms at Clive's.* At the time of the examination, each candidate is put into a separate room by himself with his papers, and is locked in till he has finished. This goes on for five or six days. Each candidate takes his tiffin with him and is left alone for the day and let out in the evening, giving up his answer-books as he comes out.

Well, I think I have now come to the end of my anecdotes and reminiscences of China. You must remember it is now forty three years since I saw the things I have now been recounting to you, so my memory may not be accurate on all points. But I have given you my impressions, as they remain, of the strange and interesting people who constitute the largest and most populous empire of the world, though it looks as if it were on its last legs and approaching dismemberment. You must remember, moreover, that I saw chiefly Hong-kong where the very dregs of the people are found, [*two lines illegible*]. The race I have been describing are the Chinese proper. They are not to be confounded with their Tartar conquerors of the North, who are a brave and gallant race though somewhat degenerated by their contact with the Chinese.

On returning from Canton to Hong-kong, I found myself ordered to join the headquarters of my regiment in Rangoon. I took leave of the many kind friends I had met in Hong-kong, but I was not sorry on the whole to leave.

Leaving Hong-kong I must now also take my leave of you, but not before I thank you, as I now do, for the patience with which you have listened to my stories.

* *Like the Colony rooms at Clive's* refers to the first hostel at Clive's, the *Colony* as it was called, and of which no trace remains except in the memory of 'Old boys' who lived there.



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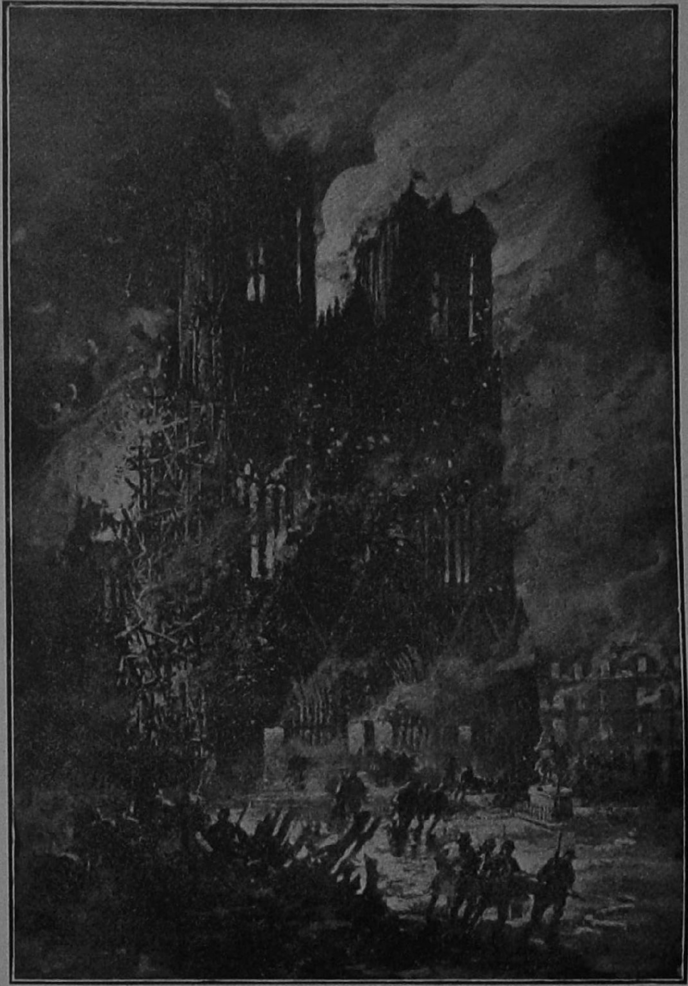

ON FIRE.

*Law as a Career.**

[*By* S. AMBRAVANESWAR, M.A. (14), (B.L.)]

Speaking to a gathering of lawyers, I can think of no more appropriate or absorbing subject than that of law as a career. It will appeal to every member of the profession, whatever may be the rank he enjoys in that great hierarchy. It may interest laymen also to find their view of lawyers presented in a way that may induce them to be more charitable in their estimate of lawyers.

In point of fascination and possibilities, this profession easily carries the palm. The teacher's calling, we are often reminded, is a noble one, but unfortunately the measure of pecuniary appreciation it receives is not adequate, much less generous. The lawyer and the soldier are said to be the custodians of civilisation. At this critical time when we are experiencing the shock of civilized and scientific warfare, we are much alive to the indispensable and safe-guarding *rôle* of the soldier. Though we may demur to his being accorded any high compliment in times of peace, we, as lawyers, are not anyhow likely to forego it ourselves. For, legal strife goes on every day; on the forensic arena the lawyer is ever needed. He may naturally and with reason feel himself like a knight-errant of peace and justice, saving the world from a relapse into barbarism, when might was right and the simple rule prevailed :

> "Let him take who has the power,
> And let him keep who can."

Happily we are in better times now. An advance in the mode of dealing justice was made when the intervention of God was invoked in the trial by ordeal. Red-hot iron and boiling water were used as the test of innocence. The *modus operandi* of this system was tinged clearly with ecclesiastical influence, and fortunate were the few who survived the ordeal. The Code of the Knight and Soldier was adopted in the other mode of dispensing justice by battle. Advocacy by lawyers in law-courts before Justices was a later development in the West. In India, we always regarded the king as the fountain of justice ; we had a highly organised and intricate judicial administration as far back as the twilight of history. The recent researches of Mr. Narendranath—by the way, a lawyer,—have brought to light the structure and working of judicial machinery in Ancient India, and we marvel at its harmony and perfection. This historical acquaintance may explain how we take easily and kindly to modern courts of justice. Systematisation of law, and uniformity of procedure, are the contributions we owe to the West.

The legal profession here at the present day is crowded with possibilities and crowded also with jostling aspirants. Everywhere the remark is loudly heard that the bar is overcrowded. But the wonder is, it happens to be peculiarly elastic and safe from bursting. The lack of other alluring avenues of employment readily accounts for this rush to the bar. Higher Grades of Public Service absorb only a small percentage of educated Indians. Industrial pursuits are neither successful nor attractive under present conditions. The lot of the teacher has been alluded to already. No wonder, therefore, that numbers drift to law and that the force of competition, of which economists are never weary of talking, is felt with all its advantages and drawbacks most keenly at the bar. The growing strength of the bar would even justify

* Substance of an address delivered at the first anniversary of the Tiruvadi Bar Association with the Hon'ble Advocate-General in the Chair.

a classification of humanity into "Lawyers and non-Lawyers", by way of a parody of Charles Lamb's division of the world into "Lenders and Borrowers."

Possibilities loom before the aspirant who would tread the long and weary way towards their realization. The vista of official life may enchant him. Some are lawyers by birth and instinct, some become lawyers by hard study and experience, and some are perforce lawyers with a sense of martyrdom. Of very few indeed can it be said that they take to the legal profession as naturally and irresistibly as fish to water. To this exceptional class belongs Mr. Eardley Norton whose reminiscences of an innate desire to be a "free lance" have been lately chronicled in his own picturesque style. "So far back as I can go into the years of my infancy," he says, "I have never wished to be anything but what I am, a free lance barrister, untrammelled by judicial responsibilities. I recollect having paraded before my mother's glass arrayed in my father's gown and bands, enforcing imaginary grievances of unrealized clients to shadowy juries."

To be a member of a learned profession, to be cheered by prospects of success, to be unfettered in activities, to have scope for ambition and opportunities of public service, one has to be a lawyer in these days. Not only in the Court-room aiding the administration of justice, but also in the Council Chamber shaping legislation, on the platform pressing for social or constitutional progress, is the lawyer foremost and indispensable. The lawyer *as a statesman* is a familiar influential figure. We have at the present moment a lawyer as Prime Minister, another lawyer as Viceroy, lawyers in the Cabinet, in the Executive and Privy Councils, not to speak of the Legislative Councils. The leaders of the nation, *its vocal and vitalising units*, are lawyers, so much so that it may be said that law spells power and influence. In his memorable address to the American Bar, Lord Haldane spoke of the legal profession as the instrument shaping the world's progress, and he emphasised the value and sanctity of international law. In the re-construction of the world after the War, the lawyer's mission will be to strengthen international law and change it from contemptible "scraps of paper" into a solemn obligation which will be enforced by arms, if need be. The Peace tribunal will have for its support the resources of other nations so as to coerce a recalcitrant power into obedience. It will place Peace on an unassailable basis, and thus alone will the present war end war. In the administration of justice, in the sphere of social reform and educational progress, in the maintenance of civic and constitutional liberty, lawyers in India have the same privilege and sacred duty as their comrades elsewhere. To belong to such a profession is itself a privilege, to excel therein is an inspiring achievement. The "Vakil Raj," far from being a term of reproach, is a highly significant compliment; it suggests a vast fund of power in reserve and revelation.

But in our contemplation of the roseate aspect of the legal profession, we must not lose sight of other harsh, but none the less *real*, aspects of the profession which present themselves to an aspiring lawyer at the threshold of his career. Intellectual eminence, exalted character, tireless industry, and keen sense of duty are demanded of a lawyer who would forge ahead in his profession. The details of legal equipments are truly varied. To define an advocate's knowledge would be to misconceive his vocation; elastic as the limits are the requirements of the legal profession. Natural abilities and mother wit count for a good deal. A turn of thought, a subtle distinction, a quick repartee, and alert ingenuity have scored success in cases which else might have led into a wilderness of facts or a quicksand of conflicting decisions. Here I am reminded of a striking illustration. A shrewd lawyer was wasting his arguments on the jury in defence of a prisoner. The jury

frowned a verdict of "guilty." It was late at night. A candle light went out and was rekindled. And the lawyer at once remarked, "You have restored the light, but once the light of life in my client is extinguished, not all of you together can restore it." The jury felt it, and gave the prisoner the benefit of the doubt! The weapons in the legal armoury are many, some of them extremely delicate, and all of them have to be bright and sharp for successful practice.

To close grip of law and facts have to be united charm of manner, calmness born of confidence, and quick response to suggestions from the box or the bench. Eloquence is not so much needed as clear and convincing exposition. Much like the general of an army, the lawyer has to marshal men and materials. The same tact and resourcefulness avail in forensic as in field warfare. Not mere numerical superiority, but readiness to seize opportunities constitutes real strength and ensures victory. The magic quality which is all compelling in the lawyer's relationship to his clients and to the Court, is well brought out in the emphatic dictum of an eminent Judge who said:—"What is needed first is tact, second tact, third tact." The lawyer has to deal not merely with books—which are formidable enough,—but with men in the intensely *practical* affairs of life. He has to enter into their feelings and outlook, and to condemn or justify their actions in relation to real life. The faculty to do so should be wide and varied, like human nature itself. Worldly wisdom and versatility are demanded of him. The Judge has to be agreeably convinced and his peculiarities have to be understood. There are judges and judges: some are impressionists with minds readily made up, argument-proof; some are hesitant and open to conviction; some are slow to win over but staunch at the end; some freeze with law and others melt with equity; some hate decisions and trust to common sense, and *vice versa*; some are morally indignant to a degree that oversteps legal defences. They have a diversity of temper and inclination of which a shrewd lawyer has to take notice, need I say even advantage. In its psychological aspect, therefore, the career of a lawyer involves a close study of human nature and conduct in a variety of circumstances. A rebellious witness in the box calls for the exercise of the lawyer's full powers of control and persuasion. An impatient remark from the Bench calls for his ready resourcefulness. And in addressing arguments it is no extravagant demand to make that the lawyer's training should have included, besides a liberal and legal education, "6 stories, 7 legends, 9 illustrations, and 10 points of practice," though I do not see the magic of these numbers even in the ascending order. But the jury has, more often than not, to be won over by this delicious mixture of elements. Wit, romance, allusion, and personal appeal happily blend in forensic language and make it irresistible. Intellectual and natural endowments show their best only when backed up by character. And in the legal profession, as in every other walk of life, the background of fairness and integrity is the pre-requisite for esteem and success. An argument is never more telling than when urged with moral fervour, and likewise intellectual and natural abilities are never displayed to better advantage than when they rest on a strong basis of character. Intellect without character is built on sand; character without intellect is a foundation without a fabric.

Though thus equipped, the lawyer has to pass through the discipline of experience. These qualities and attainments will stand him in good stead throughout, and will be enriched in the process of his training. The first few years when the lawyer has to practise economy, afford him guidance and stimulus. They draw out his resources and stamp upon him the characteristics that make for success. The advice of an eminent jurist to a junior lawyer that "he should live like a hermit and

work like a horse," sounds rather hard and unkind, but nevertheless, it lays down a code of discipline and preparation for ultimate advancement in the profession. "Learn to labour and to wait" is a milder maxim. But certain temperaments are hard pressed by sufferings and apparent failures. The example of lawyers, however, who were strengthened by their struggle into eminence, will cheer up the young lawyer in moments of depression. Success hard won is all the more valuable and enduring. The laurel is prized most when it reaches hands that have wrought nobly and ceaselessly. These laborious days develop the knowledge, ability, and character which are precious and unfailing assets in the legal profession. The sympathy and guidance of seniors enable the young lawyer to avoid many a pitfall and to avail himself of opportunities of distinction in his career. Yet law is proverbially a "jealous" mistress and leaves very limited leisure or inclination for any avocation. Not roses alone, but thorns as well are strewn on the narrow way that winds up to the summit of fame and success.

Great as are its fascinations and possibilities, the worry and responsibility the profession entails are alarming. The common remark that the lawyer burdens himself with other persons' cares and concerns is only too true; but the burden is lightened by time and training, and by the practice of a little detachment.

It must also be confessed that the lawyer is a much abused individual. If put on his defence, he will most probably say that he has been more "sinned against than sinning." His activities, according to the layman, are of an argumentative order and more often destructive than constructive. He is supposed to hoodwink Justice and to lead her out of her own natural course. The old economist deemed law a business *unproductive* though intellectual. The lawyer and the usurer were long regarded as twin brothers. The present day moralist dwells on the conflict between the lawyer's conscience and self-interest when he undertakes the defence of a person he knows to be guilty. Lawyers are accused of fostering litigation, while they claim credit for curtailing it. The defeated client inveighs against him, never suspecting the weakness of his cause. The disappointed client, who with a gruff voice and a stout stick in hand pursued Mr. E. Norton from the Court to the Chamber on the failure of his first engagement, is only a sturdy and active specimen of the class of clients who rail at lawyers instead of cursing their own stars when their cause fails in Court. The lawyer has been graphically, though not gracefully, likened to a leech for his greedy grasp and to a windbag for his long-winded prosing.

But, despite cavil and comment, he persists in the task of vindicating rights, real or supposed, of appeasing quarrels, of aiding the administration of justice according to his lights, thus commanding the respect though not the sympathy, satisfying the need though not the standard, of the public. The function of the lawyer in helping the administration of justice by presenting the other and less obvious side of every case, has not been duly appreciated by laymen.

Besides, the lawyer deserves the gratitude of the public for the lead he takes in all progressive movements and in shaping legislation to meet social requirements. He is a centre of social and intellectual energy. *He is a limb of the law and of the body-politic.* He is not an erratic or irresponsible individual. On the contrary, he is hedged round with duties. He owes it to his profession to maintain its dignity, traditions, and usefulness. He owes it to himself to enhance his reputation for knowledge and character. His relationship to the client is that of his best adviser and agent who will invariably uphold, not impair, the interests committed to his charge. To the Court he owes the duty of stating his case logically and lucidly so as to help the judge to arrive at the right decision. The public have claims upon him as an enlightened citizen who will strive for the betterment of social conditions and for the vindication of

civic and constitutional liberties. Privilege is never dissociated from responsibility; and if the lawyer wields power and influence, he willingly bears the responsibilities of his position.

Within *strict* limits, the career of law is consecrated to the vindication of rights or to the enforcement of duties. In its *wider* range, it illustrates and renders possible the ideal of true citizenship. In its *widest* scope, it is an international agency that can and will maintain the peace of the world. The importance and exigencies of his *role*, will save the lawyer from the less pleasing insinuations conveyed in the balanced verdict of Judge Donovan who speaks of "lawyers as the most trusted and the most distrusted of men, who make contracts and unmake them, who give advice and sell counsel, who make money out of trouble and trouble out of money, who create estates and distribute them, who live by loaning money and often subsist on borrowed capital, who conceal marriage secrets and drag out faded letters in bitter divorces, who please and persuade when lucky, but often go out of Court branded by the side defeated—what wonder that the slurs of character fall to the common lot of the Lawyer." But the lawyer has *another* version of the case which is too well known to need mention here for the purpose of refuting or appealing against the above judgement.

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"The Hon'ble MR. S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR made a highly instructive speech complimenting the lecturer on his humorous, thoughtful, and brilliant speech. He addressed himself to the main points therein on which he agreed. He was, however, optimistic enough to think that the Bar was not overcrowded and that there were good chances for all, especially as a result of the recent rise in the level of legal ethics and efficiency in this country. He insisted on the need and value of offering sound advice to clients and favouring compromise whenever the parties really desired it. There was also growing up an intelligent *clientele* who knew how to coax or bully vakils. The legal profession is entrusted with the guardianship of the rights of citizens, private and public. The lawyer is the fittest and foremost leader of all progressive movements in the land."

From *The Hindu*.

That will do is a phrase of modern invention. Had it been known in olden times the Egyptians would not have built the pyramids, nor would the Romans and the Greeks have given even to the commonest household utensils the poetic grace which we admire in, for instance, the relics of Pompeii.

That will do is the excuse of mediocrity, unable to soar to better things.

That will do means I *will* fail, when it is the maxim of a student.

That will do is the enemy to all excellence and would sap the conscience of the most virtuous man alive.

Nothing will do but the very best in every detail of life,—in the scullery, in the church, in the bazaar, on the bench, in the councils of nations.

The War 4th Aug. – 1st Nov. 1917.

INTRODUCTORY.

The measure of Germany's power is Germany's achievement in the West.

It was in the West that the Germans struck the first blow, which fell on Belgium, though it was meant for France. Having two enemies to fight, and being far more powerful than either taken singly, the German army, according to plans patiently elaborated in the course of many years, was to fall suddenly on the readier of the two, and having overwhelmed him before he had time to organize the resistance, to deal leisurely with the Russians, who lacking transport facilities of every description, and impeded by German treachery at every turn, would still be, months after the declaration of war, in the throes of a tardy and incomplete mobilization. To ensure the speedy ruin of the western enemy, the Germans, with full knowledge of the infamy they were about to commit, deliberately flung themselves across Belgium in order to strike France on the frontier, which, trusting the plighted word of the Germans that they would hold Belgium soil inviolable, she had left unguarded. The blow was gathering strength; Belgium stepped into the path, and received it. Before a second blow could be delivered, France had gained time to muster a part of her forces.

The second blow was more terrible than the first. It sent the Allies reeling to the Marne. Then came the counter-blow, the battle of the Marne. From that blow delivered in the West the enemy has never recovered. (Sept. 1914.) He was driven headlong to the positions which he has held with dwindling success ever since: Ypres, the Somme, the Aisne, the Meuse heights. Again and again he has made desperate and prolonged efforts to repair his broken fortunes: at Ypres 1914, Ypres 1915, Verdun 1916, Craonne 1917, always with the same unfailing result. The western front has defeated him in every battle since the Marne. France held him almost single-handed for the first two years; she paid the price—1,000,000 slain—but she gave as much as she received, and she held him while England made ready. England took her full share of the burden in July 1916. Except at Craonne—and there the German attacks were only the reply to the great French offensive in April which all but drove them from Laon—since July 1916 the Germans have lost the initiative, and their aim has become not so much to reach Paris and defeat the western Allies as to guard Germany against invasion. The original scheme has been reversed, and the Germans are on the defensive.

The German armies have failed in the West. Meanwhile, as foreseen by the German staff, the Russian enemy has not yet mobilized, and never will mobilize in the same sense and degree as France and England. In the eastern theatre Germany has had things her own way. While acting on the defensive in the West where all attempts at an offensive broke against a steel wall, Germany swept the Russians from Galicia and Poland in 1915, crushed Serbia in 1915, conquered Wallachia in 1916, and drove the Russians from eastern Galicia and the Bukovina and invaded Livonia in 1917.

The East and South have been convenient fields for cheap victories over an unprepared foe, which have served to revive the drooping spirits of the armies immobilized and battered in the West. From the West, armies have each year in the Autumn been drafted to the South and East, while the Flanders quagmires and Somme hills far more

efficaciously than German courage, have checked the Allies' advance. But always after the victories in the South and East, the German armies have been hurriedly recalled to the West when their ally, the bad weather, began to desert them.

The War began in the West; in the West it will end, with German defeat irrevocable, irretrievable. The West gives the true measure of German power, not the East. Against a disorganized rabble, or an army without guns and railway communications, the Germans have been invariably successful; wherever they have met the western Allies they have been defeated. The West defeated them when it had only half their numbers and equipment in 1914;[1] the West defeated them when it had equal numbers and equipment in 1916; the West will assuredly defeat them when in 1918 it will oppose superior numbers and equipment.

WEST.

Flanders. 31st July-31st October.

Sir Douglas Haig's official report on the Battle of Messines contained the following statement: "*The battle became a gauge of the ability of the German troops to stop our advance under conditions as favourable to them as an army can ever hope for, with every advantage of ground and preparation, and with the knowledge that attack was impending.*" His message of congratulation to Gen. Plumer who won the battle, sounded the knell of the German armies: "*The complete success of the attack made yesterday...is an earnest of the eventual final victory of the Allied cause. (The victory) affords final and conclusive proof that neither the strength of a position, nor knowledge of and timely preparation to meet an impending assault, can save the enemy from complete defeat*; and that, brave and tenacious as the German troops are, *it is only a question of how much longer they can endure the repetition of such blows.*"

These sober statements of fact have been strikingly confirmed in the succession of battles known as the Battle of Flanders.

The battle was directed against the German positions on the high ground (150 ft.) that extends from outside Ypres to Passchendaele. The advantages of the defensive lay with the Huns. They had carefully prepared their positions; they had accumulated enormous supplies of guns and material along the Belgian coast and the front facing France. The collapse of Russia had left them free to concentrate against us every spare man and gun; more serious as an obstacle than the massed guns and concrete defences, was the weather which broke at the beginning of August, and transformed the battle field into a vast muddy lake sprinkled with islets of dry ground; through this mud our men had to attack the enemy, frequently wading up their to waists or necks.

The first battle opened on [1] 31st July. It drove the Huns headlong from the

[1] In 1914 at the first battle of Ypres the Germans outnumbered us by nearly five to one; we were on the defensive, the defensive consisting of a shallow trench, a line of infantry —a mere sprinkling of men—supported by a feeble artillery. For every British soldier killed, the Germans lost six. (B. losses 40,000; G. losses 250,000.) And the Germans could not burst through the thin khaki line. In the third battle of Ypres 1917 the Germans were on the defensive, the defensive consisting of a series of low ridges fortified with the utmost skill, with the ponds, marshes, and viscous mud of Flanders in addition. For every British soldier killed, the Germans lost two, and the Germans were driven from their positions, ridge after ridge.

[1] The guard Fusilier Regiment known as the Berlin 'Cockchafers, or May Beetles,' was shattered here. They were Wilhelm's pet regiment, and every year on the first of May he sent them a little packet containing a live cockchafer, with his compliments.

"Among the interesting minor booty which we found, are copies of a regimental poem celebrating the valour of the Cockchafers, telling how in 1870 they flew to France and desolated it, and how in this War, when called to fly over the Rhine, they took wing, and Belgium ceased to exist. Then Hindenburg called to them, and they flew east and broke the Russians. Then Austria called, and north they went and flew over the Carpathians; and how the British gnashed their teeth when the cockchafers swarmed out against them. It is quite a nice poem, but it needs another verse" to tell how the Welshmen got at *them* and *they* ceased to be.

[Times, Weekly, August, 17.]

western ridges, from the villages of St. Julien, Pilken, Westhoek, etc. (cf. Magazine Sept. 1917.) St Julien and Pilken had been previously in the Allies' hands; but in 1915 at the second battle of Ypres, poisonous gas then used for the first time by the Huns in violation of their written word not to use it, killed the defenders, and the Germans occupied our lines. The two years interval between that second and this third battle of Ypres had not been wasted; the Huns had made their positions, as they thought, impregnable. The battle of Messines had literally blown them off the last high ridge on the frontier of Belgium; this great battle of Ypres was destined to dislodge them from the remaining high ground in Flanders.

The battle of 31st August, besides valuable positions, gave us 6000 German prisoners.

Unfortunately before the battle had been forced to its legitimate conclusion, a spell of rainy weather put a stop to all operations except those of a local character. The Huns profited by the respite to devise some new system of defence: experience had taught them that regular lines could not stand under a lengthy British bombardment. The new system consisted of (pill-boxes) loosely connected machine-gun forts of concrete many feet thick, almost flush with the ground, and strong enough to resist any shells except those of the largest calibre. These forts were held by a few picked men, while strong reserves were held ready in the rear for counter-attacks should the pill-boxes fail to hold up our advance.

The battle was resumed on 16th August on a nine-mile front. French troops co-operating on the British left forced the enemy back across the Steenbeck stream, while the British in the centre captured the strong village of Langemarck. 1,800 prisoners and 24 guns remained in our hands, and the Huns found themselves steadily and remorselessly driven further and further back over the fortified ridge.

Simultaneously battle was delivered near Lens. The Canadians stormed Hill 70 outside Lens, a position of immense strength which we had captured but failed to retain on 25 Sept. 1915. This time we went to stay, though we kept possession only after a furious struggle protracted for days. The Germans were ordered to recover the position at whatever cost; the Canadians were equally set on keeping it. Fifteen massed counter-attacks in the good old German style, were made against Hill 70. Four German divisions were slaughtered[1] before the enemy recognized the hopelessness of their attempts; Hill 70, with 1200 prisoners remained in our hands, and fighting began in the suburbs of Lens.

Meanwhile in Flanders, the Huns were getting thoroughly alarmed. At least three divisions were hurried up from the Russian front, fresh defences were improvised, and numerous divisions literally sacrificed. Twice as many German divisions as British were engaged, and slightly more than twice as many withdrawn to refit. Yet, how little confident the German commanders felt of their ability to stay the advance or parry the blows, is seen in the tone of the German papers. They began, under inspirations from head-quarters, to prepare the public for bad news, and foretold three separate Allied offensives, in Flanders, Champagne, and at Verdun, and spoke of Flanders as the decisive battle of the War. The battle of Flanders broke out again in September; an attack was delivered in

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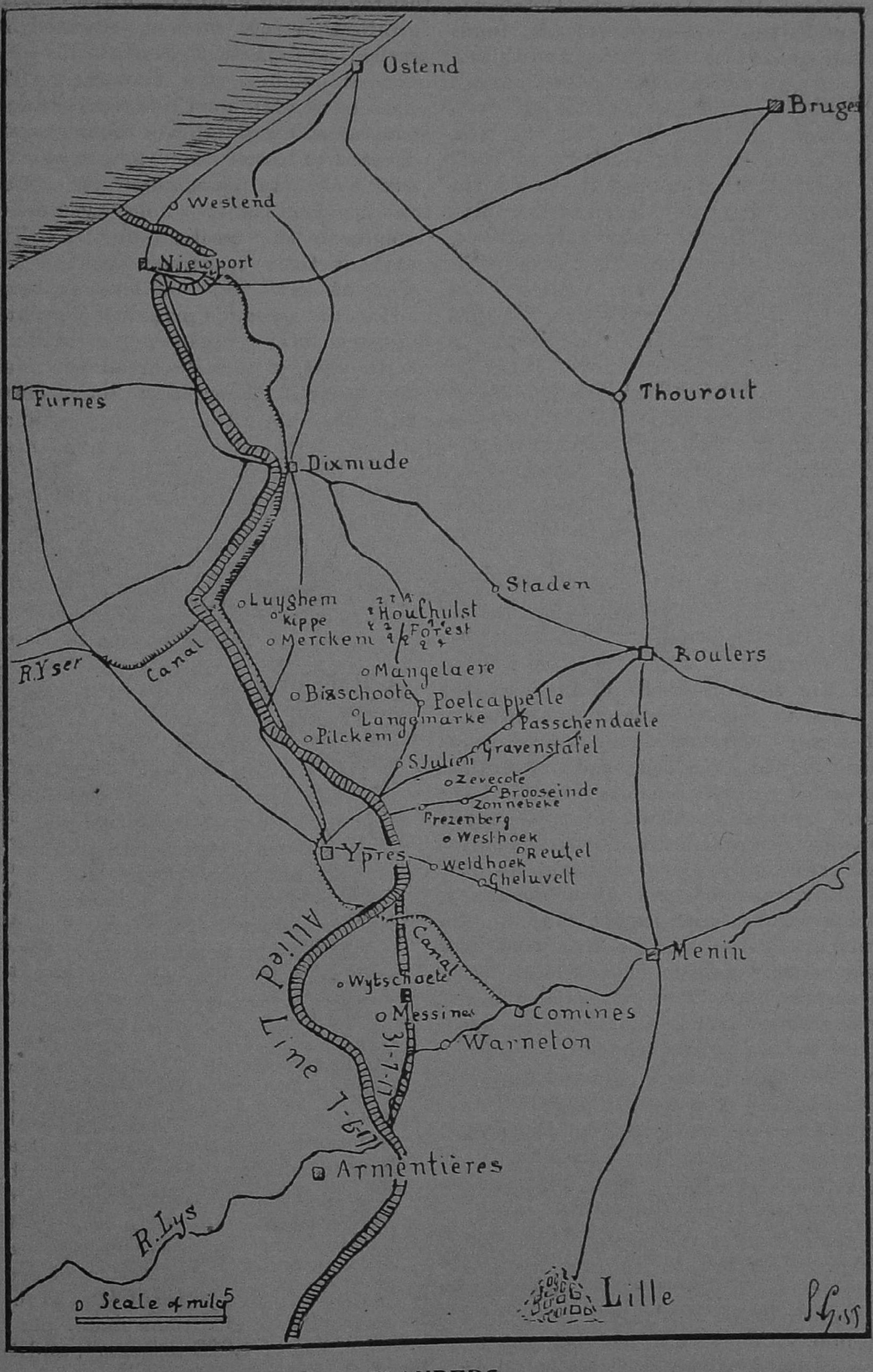
[1] 16th Aug. "The 4th Prussian Guard (forming part of an army corps of the Guards) marching in columns of four, swung out from their snug line behind the Town and advanced to drive home a counter-thrust against the victorious Canadians. They found the north of their line of march so exposed that they dared not top the crest on that side, and on the south an area of swampy ground ribbed and paled them in. They could not deploy, and perforce marched on, still in fours, along the road, and came first into indirect, then into direct fire from a number of converging machine guns and field guns. In all, they marched thus for nearly three miles, most of it under direct fire.... The whole body of several thousand men was shot down. They died and did not kill....."

[*Daily Mail* Overseas. 25th Aug.]


Ostend
Bruges
Westend
Nieuport
Furnes
Thourout
Dixmude
Staden
Roulers
R.Yser
Canal
Luyghem
Kippe
Merckem
Houthulst
Forest
Mangelaere
Bixschoote
Poelcappelle
Langemarke
Passchendaele
Pilckem
S.Julien
Gravenstafel
Zevecote
Brooseinde
Zonnebeke
Frezenberg
Westhoek
Reutel
Ypres
Weldhoek
Gheluvelt
Allied
Line 7-6-17
Canal
Menin
Wytschaete
Messines
31-7-17
Comines
Warneton
Armentières
R.Lys
Lille
0 Scale of miles 5

FLANDERS.

Champagne (the Aisne) in October; and at Verdun in August. Each time the Germans fared badly.

About 20th August the Kaiser paid a visit to the Belgian rear, and made a speech: "We will fight till the enemy has had enough... England is particularly the enemy whom we must strike down, however difficult it may be," said the All-Highest. England, notwithstanding this inspiriting speech, continued to do all the striking down in September and October, and many a Hun division has long since had enough. The striking down would have proceeded much more rapidly, if the weather had not allied itself with the Huns to delay us. But the problem has not yet been satisfactorily solved, of rolling up 100-ton guns and carriages through a Belgian quagmire.

The Huns profited by the respite which the weather enforced on us, to attempt a coup in the eastern theatre, where they captured Riga.

In the second week of September the weather and ground improved sufficiently to allow us to deliver another blow. We attacked on 19th September from Langemarck to Hollebeke, and seized important enemy positions between the Ypres-Roulers and the Ypres-Menin roads. The battle of 31st July was pushed to its legitimate conclusion, Westhoek ridge fell into our hands, and we were in a position for an advance towards Menin and Roulers, whence the coast will be under our guns, and an attack can be launched either north towards Ostend or south towards Lille. The battle died down on 21st. 3,200 German prisoners were on their way to England.

"The essential point about the extensive and successful advance... beyond Ypres...is that it wrested from the enemy much ground which he was determined never to relinquish. For the Germans there is no question of strategic withdrawals in this portion of Belgium. They are not holding on temporarily with the intention of falling back to another line when they have resisted us long enough. From the sea to Lille they regard their present front as vital, and their troops are ordered to hold all points to the last gasp. The object of our Higher Command is clear enough. We are fighting to compel the Germans to loosen their grip upon the strip of Belgian coast, which has become the key to their whole system of defence in the western theatre. The heart of their resistance lies in the series of low ridges which run north and south beyond Ypres. We greatly impaired their prospects when in a single day we blew them off the Messines ridge. Thereafter they clung more desperately than ever to the ridges farther north, which are variously named, but perhaps are best known as the Gheluvelt and Passchendaele ridges. These are the last heights left to them in this particular area, and once they have lost them, they will be down in the flat and swampy plains......"

[*Times Weekly*, 28 Sept.]

A little over a month had elapsed between the two previous battles; henceforth the attacks follow at much shorter intervals, as the German power of resistance weakens. 25th September the battle—which has been called the battle of Zonnebeke, because the fight was fiercest there and that village was captured—was resumed, and 1700 prisoners fell into our hands, many of them not of age to bear arms,—an indication of the steady weakening of German man-power. It is only a question of how long the enemy can stand the repetition of our blows.

4th October. Sir D. Haig's battle reports begin to assume the laconic stereotyped form: "We attacked this morning on a wide front. Our troops are making satisfactory progress; a number of prisoners have already been taken." A series of splendid victories, of 4th, 9th, 12th, 26th, 30th October were announced in the same terms of doom for the Huns. The battle of 4th October, called the battle of Broodseinde, put us in possession of 4,800 prisoners, and the fortified villages of Polderhoek, Molenwarlesthoek, Cravenstafel, Reutel and

Noordefhoek. The Huns were being pitilessly pounded off the last ridges. On 9th October a thrust was made more to the north; the French carried the villages of Mangelaare and Veldhoek, and reached the southern skirts of Houthulst forest, while the British worked up to its eastern side: the total of prisoners was 2000. On 12th October many strong points were captured between Houthulst forest and the Ypres-Roulers railway, and 1000 prisoners taken.

Stormy weather prevailed after the attack on 9th; the ground became waterlogged with incessant rains. On 26th October the battle was again resumed. The British, supported on their left by the French, attacked from south of the Houthulst forest to Gheluvelt. Considerable progress was made towards Passchendaele, and the villages of Merckem, Aschoop and Kippe were captured by the French. 1,100 prisoners were taken. On 30th October, when the Huns might reasonably have expected that we should remain satisfied with the work of the year, we delivered another blow in the direction of Passchendaele and reached the outskirts of of the village.

A few remarks remain to be made on the battle of Flanders :—

1. What is described as a series of separate battles is one and the same battle of Flanders. From 31st July till 31st October the battle has raged without ceasing; the separate battles are only periods of more intense fighting marked by heavier German losses both in men and positions, and bursting forth whenever the state of the roads and weather allowed more extensive operations.

2. The battle has proved conclusively Sir D. Haig's statement that we can beat the Germans on their own ground and with their full knowledge of, and preparation for, an impending attack. Nine successive blows have been delivered, and to not one of those blows has the whole weight of the German armies been able to make any effective reply; it has not even been able to delay or resist it. Time after time as the blow has fallen where the Germans fully expected it to fall, the Germans have yielded ground.

3. Measured in square miles the British gains are not great. But battles nowadays when Nations are at war with Nations, are not measured in territorial gains, they are measured by the drain of the enemy's strength. It matters little ultimately whether the Germans are beaten in the Ypres-Roulers -Menin triangle or in a last great stand with their backs to the Rhine. In a sense it is better that they should stand up to us in Flanders; the transport question is simpler. We ask only that they will stand up to us; the rest may be left to Sir D. Haig and his soldiers. In the three months' battle the German losses, in spite of the advantages of position, have been stated semi-officially as 75 per cent in excess of ours. British guns—their voices are heard in London and far away in the peaceful fields of England,—and British courage, have made this difference in the respective casualty lists.

General Maurice summed up the results for August as follows: "The Germans engaged in Flanders twice as many divisions as we, and they withdrew (beaten) slightly more than twice as many as we." 42 divisions were engaged, and 30 were withdrawn. Since April the British have taken 60,000 German prisoners. The destruction of the German armies is what matters, and it is being carried on apace [1].

4. The battle, from the very nature of Germany's pretensions upon Belgium, has developed into a massacre. The Germans are determined to stay, we are more determined that they shall go.

[1] A list of German defeats :

7th June.—	Messines,	7,300 prisoners;
31st July.—	Flanders,	6,000 prisoners;
15th Aug.—	Flanders,	1,800 prisoners;
16th Aug.—	Hill 70,	1,200 prisoners;
19th Sept.—	Flanders,	3,200 prisoners;
25th Sept.—	Flanders,	1,700 prisoners;
4th Oct.—	Flanders,	4,800 prisoners;
9th Oct.—	Flanders,	2,000 prisoners;
12th Oct.—	Flanders,	1,000 prisoners;
26th Oct.—	Flanders,	1,100 prisoners;
30th Oct.—	Flanders:	

And when two stubborn folk are met, and each refuses to yield, the cooler and steadier and stronger prevails. Having seized Belgium, the retention of which to the Huns at home is the symbol of Germany's victory, Germany is loath to surrender it. England is more loath to leave the thief in possession of the ill-gotten goods, first because England has plighted her word of honour, and secondly because her national security depends on the restoration. Hence perhaps the German statement that the battle of Flanders is the decisive battle of the War: Germany will surrender her spoil only when beaten beyond recovery. The question is which of the two will strike the harder and the longer. This battle is the test of strength between the two empires. We have done all the striking since 31st July.

The only consolation left to the Hun commanders after each of the battles in Flanders has been to issue a lying bulletin, stating that "the British have failed to carry such and such a point." The answer in each case has been that the British did not carry the point which they did not aim at carrying. They were content with limited objectives, so many miles of high ground wrested from the enemy, so much progress made in the exhaustion of the German armies.

5. At the closing in of Winter, the Huns find themselves clinging precariously to the lower slopes of the Passchendaele ridges, with the prospect of a Winter in the marshes of Flanders, and a merciless pounding by British guns. The battle may relent during the dark days of mid-Winter, but it will assuredly burst out again with tenfold violence, if not before, at least when the days lengthen and the skies grow clear.

6. The Germans are receiving the better part of their punishment where they have more grievously sinned;—even above the guilt of letting loose this War upon the world, stands the guilt of the invasion of Belgium prefaced by the cynical announcement that treaties are scraps of paper.

Verdun 20th - 28th August.

At Verdun in 1916 the Crown Prince had substantial gains for his heavy losses. On the Aisne his losses have been heavy and his gains nil. Hardly a day passed since the end of April to the last week of October without a German attack on some point or other of the Chemin des Dames—the great ridge south of Laon which the French captured in April. But the French refused to be beaten. The struggle continued till the end of October when a shrewd blow hurled the Huns once for all into the Ailette valley. The protracted struggle for the possession of the ridge has been mentioned in the previous article (Sept. 1917). While the Huns were wearing themselves away against the French lines, the French dealt them a staggering blow at Verdun.

The battle of Verdun opened at daybreak on 20th August on an eleven mile front, between Avocourt wood and the village of Bezonvaux. In one sweep, the French recovered positions to capture which the Germans had spent months of time and thousands of lives. Our friend the Crown Prince —that unlucky mascot of the German armies—commanded, just as he did in Feb. 1916 when Berlin was prematurely beflagged in honour of the capture of the famous city. The brilliant leadership of the French officers and the splendid dash of the men swept the Huns from a series of heights ever further back from the city, which symbolized the unconquerable spirit of France. The captures included the famous Dead Man's hill, the scene of prolonged and most ferocious fighting. On 28th, 10,000 prisoners had been taken, and German hopes of a renewed offensive there were at an end.

On 20th September, in the name of the King and the British Empire, the British national flag was presented to Verdun in tribute of our admiration for the most stubborn of French defences and the most heroic of French victories. No token could better express our

appreciation of the great deeds of France.

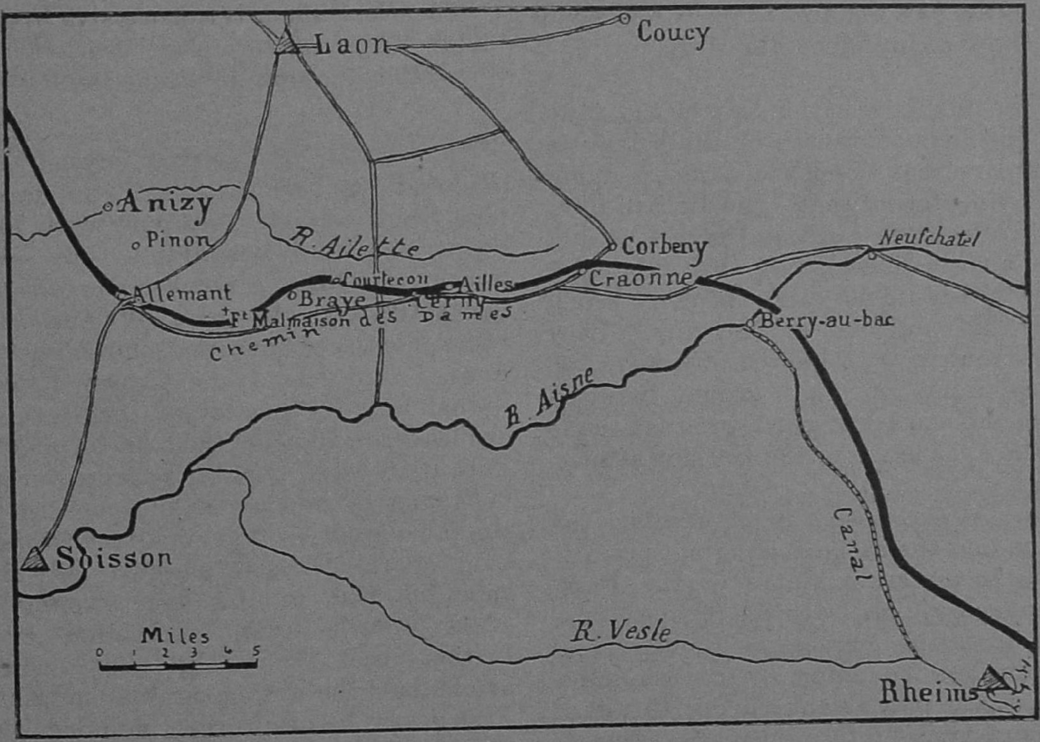
Craonne Plateau : 23rd - 27th October.

In order to form a true estimate of the work of the French armies, it is important not to forget the magnificent effort of the armies which from the end of April till 23rd October have held the strong positions along the ridge between the valleys of the Aisne and the Ailette, traversed by the Ladies' Road—the Chemin des Dames. This sector of the line is not so familiar to us as Verdun.

Verdun was regarded by the public, as well as by the German staff, as leading directly to Paris, the heart of France, and as the main obstacle that barred the way to the invader; and the fact that the operations there were a German initiative, the avowed object of which was to break a way through to the capital, transfigured the fortress into a symbol of France undefeated and invincible. '*Ils ne passeront pas*,' was the cry not only of the Poilus, but of every Frenchman.

These things were not true in the same sense of the six months' battle on the Chemin des Dames. The battle there was begun, in the first place, on the initiative of the French. It was an attack primarily, which led to counter-attacks. The opening phase on 16th April brought 30,000 prisoners and 200 guns, though the battle failed to reach its objective, and generals lost their reputation. If the battle had developed as marked out, the Huns would have been forced to abandon their Hindenburg line, the southern end of which was buttressed by the Chemin des Dames. Even the limited French success, however, deprived them of all important observation posts, and of the commanding view over the Aisne valley. The Huns strove their hardest to recover the lost positions.

(Cf. *Times Weekly*, 7th September.)



CHEMIN DES DAMES.

To this motive of recovering vital positions may be added the other motives of reviving German hopes sadly dashed by the failure of Verdun (not to mention the Marne), and of

restoring to the Kaiser's foolish heir whatever doubtful reputation for genius he had lost in his disastrous adventure before Verdun.

To win that victory which always eluded them, they struggled for six months, May - 23rd October. They gained a yard here and a yard there, which they held awhile and then lost. The fighting was as stubborn and protracted as at Verdun. But the French remained masters in the fullest sense of the word, and even greatly extended their gains. The fighting began in earnest on 5th May when the Chemin des Dames passed fully into the hands of the French. Between that date and 15th August, 49 German divisions were arrayed against the French, and 8,500 prisoners were taken. In the corresponding period of 1916 the number of German divisions employed on the slightly shorter Verdun front was 25, and the total of prisoners taken 5,800. Consequently in those months of fighting the French did invaluable work in destroying the German reserves. The German losses on the Chemin de Dames have been as heavy as at Verdun, if not heavier, while the gains have been nil.

The counterpart of the great French offensive at Verdun in December 1916, when the Germans lost in a day the fruits of months of labour, was the battle of the Aisne on October 23rd this year. The objective was the long narrow barrier between the valleys of the Aisne and the Ailette, which blocks the approach to Laon from the south, and is the strongest natural fortress in northern France, and the corner-stone of the Hindenburg line. The average height of the barrier is 850 feet, the width varies from 1,000 yards to two miles. General Pétain launched the attack from the Chemin des Dames against this formidable barrier, which was garrisoned by Germany's staunchest troops. A strong line of quarries and Fort Malmaison, the key to the whole position, were captured; successively the villages of Allemant, Vaudesson, Chargeton, Pargny and Filain were stormed, and the troops pushed on to a depth of $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The French now hold the entire crest of the ridge from Craonne to Vauxaillon, and command the view of the Ailette Valley, and of the Arden Valley at the head of which stands the fortress of Laon. 11,000 prisoners, 200 guns, 222 trench mortars, and 720 machine guns were captured. The full results of the battle will be reaped later.

This victory was the French reply to the Huns who had said that France was exhausted. And it must be remembered that, while the French were driving the Huns back at Verdun and on the Ailette, they were defeating them in conjunction with the British in Flanders not far from Dixmude.

The West, then, is the decisive battlefield. This conclusion is borne out by the following considerations :—

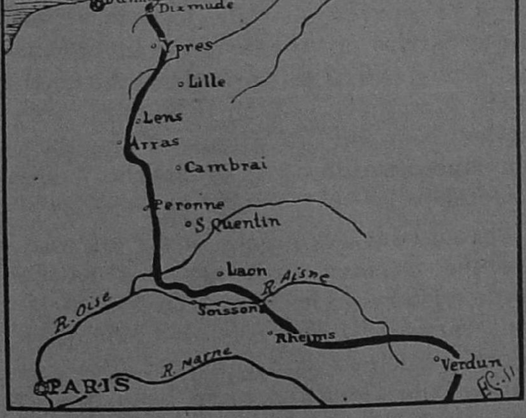
1. Between April 1st and October 26th the British have taken 60,000 prisoners, the French 56,000.

The Allies, in every instance, have taken the initiative, and defeated the enemy in battle after battle, or more correctly day after day in the long-drawn battle which has raged continuously since the Somme battle culminated in the German retreat in February. In this long, never-ending battle, greater battles stand out conspicuously, and in every one of these, the Germans, despite the enormous advantages of strong positions and the most careful preparations to counter the attacks which they knew were coming, have been beaten, hurled back with huge losses, and have signally failed to recover a single lost position. Those battles are the Somme in February, Vimy and Arras and the Aisne in April, Messines in June, Flanders' nine battles between July and November, Lens and Verdun in August, the Aisne in October.

Throughout the nine months of warfare the German staff has not had a single victory to record.—Of the fictitious variety it has recorded victories galore.—Owing to the collapse of Russia, the Germans have been free to concentrate the maximum of forces in

the West. They have had the best possible condition both for the offensive and the defensive, and they have been powerless to use the former, and they have not been saved from disaster by the latter. Their defensive has been shattered in the north, the south and the centre—Flanders, Verdun and Craonne; their counter-offensive continued for six months near Craonne, was shattered on 23rd October. In 17 great battles of the first importance, the Germans have been defeated and driven from their positions.

2. The total British casualties for the year in all the theatres of the War — France, Belgium, Salonika, Africa, Mesopotamia and Palestine, have been 500,000. Let them be stated as 450,000 for France and Belgium. The German casualties, according to the reliable authority who stated the British to be 500,000, have been 75 per cent in excess of the British; in other words, for 450,000 casualties inflicted on the British, the British alone have inflicted on the Germans 780,000 casualties. To this number may be added an equal number inflicted by the French. The German casualties in the West for 1917 cannot therefore fall far short of a million and a half. This conclusion is supported by the fact that boys who in the French armies would not be sent to the firing line before 1919 or 1920, are beginning to appear in increasing numbers among the



WESTERN FRONT.

German prisoners taken in Flanders. The supply of fighters is nearing the last limit.

3. The third year of War in the West has yielded to us :—165,000 rank and file and 3,500 officers prisoners, 2,550 machine guns, 1,728 guns ;—results, which we have every reason to be proud of.

EAST.—

The West has done its generous share of fighting in the year that closes; the East, Russia, has failed us.

Speaking at the Moscow Conference at the end of August, General Korniloff, the then Commander-in-chief of the Russian armies, made the following statement: "The situation at the front is so bad that we have lost the whole of Galicia and the whole of the Bukovina. The enemy has crossed our frontier at several points, and is threatening our fertile southern provinces. He is endeavouring to destroy the Rumanian army, and is knocking at the gates of Riga. If the army does not help us to hold the shore of the Gulf of Riga, the road to Petrograd will be opened wide."

Despoiled of the fruits of her conquests in Galicia and the Bukovina, and invaded in her turn east of the Zbruz, too weak to bar the way to Petrograd through Riga and the Baltic Sea,—such was the condition to which anarchy and treason fostered by German gold had brought the nation which in 1915 defeated every German effort to cross the Dwina, which in 1916 overran the Bukovina and eastern Galicia and put three-fourths of a million Austro-Germans out of action, and which, as late as July 1917, threw Lemberg into a panic.

Why Germany delayed so long to pass through the open door of Riga, remains enigmatical: either she lacked the necessary men, being pinned down in Flanders and along the Chemin des Dames where any thinning of her forces might have brought disaster, or she remained content to leave anarchy and treason to do the work still more

thoroughly than her own armed forces. She knew Russia had ceased to be an object of fear; she could afford to wait till the Autumn rains had transformed Flanders into an impassable sea of mud, and till the Allies generally in the West had been brought to a standstill by the bad weather. Perhaps also she hoped that Russia left to herself would rapidly go to pieces under the influence of the secret forces working for disunion and destruction.

Rumania.

Rumania, as events showed, proved a more formidable opponent than Russia. At the beginning of August Mackensen made a desperate attempt to cut up the Rumanian armies and drive them disorganized into Russian territory. The attempted plan was the preliminary step to the conquest of Moldavia and the subsequent advance on Kieff and Odessa; had it succeeded, it would have given the Central Empires the rich harvests of Bessarabia, and brought Russia a long step nearer exhaustion through famine.

Mackensen was foiled. Blow upon blow was delivered (Aug. 8th - 19th) at the forces holding the railway north of Focsani, while, still further north, Ocna, a town in the Trotus valley, was similarly threatened.

In the Trotus valley the Rumanians rapidly assumed the mastery.

Above Focsani (Marasesti battle) the struggle was far more persistent. The Rumanians, after desperate fighting against stronger forces, were pushed back on to the Susitza river (west of the Sereth). Mackensen forced the passage of the river at one point, and claimed to have taken 8,000 prisoners. But he made no further headway. Fresh troops and an ever-increasing weight of shell fire, could not make the Rumanians budge an inch further back. Gradually the battle spread along the 100-mile front from Galatz to the Trotus valley, with ups and downs, the advantage, however on the whole remaining to the Rumanians. In the Trotus valley the enemy was driven back with loss. On 19th August the enemy recognizing the futility of his efforts in the Marasesti sector abandoned the attack. He had used up 12 divisions in his attempts to reach the eastern bank of the Sereth and conquer Moldavia.

Russia.

Foiled in Moldavia, the Germans made for the open door of Riga. After the great retreat from Poland in 1915, the Grand Duke Nicholas halted on the eastern bank of the Dwina and held it successfully against Hindenburg. The Germans, at the height of their power, failed in every attempt to seize the bridge-heads of Uxkull (16 miles below Riga) and Jacobstadt (70 miles), and were forced to winter in the bogs on the western bank.

On 1st September the disaster announced by Korniloff befell Russia.

Properly defended, the Dwina which is half a mile wide at Riga, and the Uxkull bridge-head which was practically impregnable, could have held an enemy at bay indefinitely. Part of the Russian troops defending the bridge-head abandoned their positions on 1st Sept., and the next day the Germans crossed the river to attack Riga[1] from the rear. Disorganization spread rapidly among the Russian troops on the right bank, who refused to fight and left their lines. On the Jaegel river (45 miles behind the Dwina) the Russian commanders tried to rally their men for a stand, but the rabble which called itself an army had no stomach for fighting—a general retreat was ordered from the Riga region.

From Riga to Petrograd the distance by land is 350 miles through a region

[1] The Kaiser, who is never behind-hand, sent the following congratulatory message to the Hun commander Prince Leopold: "On the occasion of the capture of Riga, I express to you and the 8th army my and the Fatherland's congratulations and thanks. Far-seeing leadership and iron will to victory guaranteed this fine success. Onward with God."

For "far-seeing leadership" read "skill in treasonable practices and intrigue"; for "iron will to victory", "Russian desertion." What German iron will to victory can achieve is best seen in Flanders, at Verdun, and the Chemin des Dames.

of lakes and marshes and vast forests, well suited for the defence. But the defence may be turned from the sea.

The fall of Riga is the sign of the definite collapse of Russia. The cause of Russia's failure is to be found in the evil influence of the working men's councils and soldiers' councils, "which are largely composed of men who have never done a good day's work in their lives, and of soldiers who are unwilling to fight." Internal troubles, fomented by swarms of German spies who permeate Russian society of all grades, not the German iron-will to victory, and far-seeing German leadership, have brought Russia to this pass. This Autumn, when, if Russia had played the game, Germany would have been agonizing, Germany sees the obstacles on her eastern flank melting away, and finds herself free to dispose of divisions no longer needed on the Dwina.

Whatever Germany's motives in crossing the Dwina may have been—whether to secure good winter-quarters, or to stimulate the peace party in Russia, or to secure herself against the very remote possibility of a Russian recovery in the Spring of 1918, or to hold a base for an attack on Petrograd—Germany did not pursue her advantage in Livonia far. In twelve days after the fall of Uxkull, the Dwina positions on a distance of 40 miles from the river's mouth were captured. Two days later (14th Sept.), the advance in Livonia halted south of the Riga-Venden road.

Meanwhile a crisis had occurred in Russia. General Korniloff, acting in the belief that nothing but the iron rule of a military dictatorship could save Russia,[1] demanded (11th Sept.) that the Provisional Government which had made a sufficient display of its ineptitude, should hand over to him all civil and military powers so that he might form a new Government. Kerensky, the head of the civilian power, declared Korniloff deprived of his command. Instead of laying down his command, Korniloff headed part of his troops towards Petrograd. Just then Finland declared itself independent, and Ukraine with its 36,000,000 inhabitants demanded self-government. Months of mob oratory and mob rule had brought Russia to a state which must have delighted the heart of the Kaiser.

Kerensky, in the absence of a better solution, to his title of Prime Minister added that of Commander-in-chief. Korniloff's attempt, unsupported by the bulk of the army, definitely failed (14th Sept.), and the prospect of a civil war in which the Russian armies would destroy one another, while Germany looked on, passed away for a time. Russia was proclaimed a Republic on 17th, and the same day Korniloff surrendered to General Alexieff.

On 22nd Sept. Jacobstadt (70 miles from Riga) was taken by the enemy, and the Russian forces between Jacobstadt and Friedrichstadt fell back to the right bank of the Dwina.

In October the Germans made another attack on Russia. The German Fleet appeared in force in the Gulf of Riga. Serious operations began on 13th, and lasted till 21st. The objective was the Islands of Oesel and Dago, which command the Gulfs of Riga and Finland, and are good bases for a further attack on Revel and Petrograd by sea. A weak Russian squadron of old war-ships, assisted by at least one British submarine, defended the Gulf. The Russian sailors did better than the Russian soldiers. They kept up a good fight against overwhelming odds, and yielded only when threatened with annihilation. Eventually, after inflicting serious losses, they made good their escape and joined the Russian Fleet in the Gulf of Finland. Oesel and Dago were occupied by 21st October. The following official Russian statement shows that the success was not achieved by the Germans without serious losses:

2 German dreadnoughts, 1 cruiser, 12 destroyers, besides numerous mine-sweepers and transports were put out of action by gunfire, mines, and torpedoes, though their ultimate fate is unknown

[1] In which belief many not unwise thinkers hold him to have been right. A man of swift action was needed, not a talker and a trimmer.

The Russians lost an old battleship, the *Slava* 13,000 tons, and a destroyer.

Germany's success against Russia is a proof of Germany's weakness, not of her power. It argues no power, to defeat an army more eager to run away than to fight. If Germany were really powerful, she would have stayed the British advance in Flanders and the French advance at Verdun and Craonne. Her fleet, instead of keeping to its fixed address, Kiel, would have tried conclusions in the North Sea. Germany has been powerless to do either. But, while we floundered in the mud on the western front, she delivered a blow with weak forces against an army which went to pieces, and her fleet struggled in vain to destroy a squadron of antiquated warships. The real trial of strength is in the West and the North Sea; she has failed in the one, and she dare not face the other. '*Der Tag*' is yet to come.

Italy.

Trieste was the objective of the Italian armies operating on the Isonzo river. Two main roads lead from the Isonzo to that town, one by the coast, the other from Gorizia by the north. Between the two roads lies the Carso plateau, a rugged tableland intersected with defiles, and admirably suited for defensive operations. The plateau is from 10 to 12 miles broad, and interposes a formidable barrier between the coast road and the Gorizia road. North of Gorizia, and extending to Tolmino is the Bainsizza plateau, which flanks the Carso, and must be taken before an advance can be made by the northern road. The Carso is the key to Trieste, the Bainsizza with Monte Santo and Monte S. Gabriele, the key to the Carso. The Hermada heights below Gorizia dominate the approach to Trieste through the Carso Plateau.

The Italians began a great offensive on 19th August, which lasted in its most determined phase till 10th Sept. The offensive extended from Plava on the Isonzo below Tolmino, to the sea. On 18th and 19th progress was made on the Bainsizza plateau, and Monte Santo was stormed on 24th. A footing was gained on the Hermada heights.

On 4th September Monte S. Gabriele, which flanks Monte Santo on the south, was captured, but artillery fire rendered the crest untenable by either of the opposing forces.

To relieve the pressure on the Isonzo front, the Austrians attempted a diversion on the Trentino and Carnic fronts on 10th September, but without much success. On 30th September a further advance was made on the Bainsizza plateau and 2,000 prisoners were taken.

In all, 32,000 prisoners, 94 trench mortars, 145 guns, 322 machine-guns, were captured from the enemy.

Meanwhile things were going from bad to worse in Russia. German divisions unoccupied on the Russian front were drafted with large reinforcements of Austrians to the Bainsizza and Carso plateaux. The Italians found themselves confronted by enormous masses of enemies. The fighting, which had slackened in mid-October, burst out all along the Julian front. Finally, south of Tolmino, the Italian line snapped, and the enemy poured across the Isonzo in a rapid movement to encircle the forces operating between Plava and the sea. (25th Oct.)

In one day the Italians lost the results of two years of warfare.

To avoid being cut off from their bases of supply, and surrounded, and driven back to the mountains and the sea, the Italian armies abandoned Gorizia, the Bainsizza plateau, Monte Santo, Monte S. Gabriele, and the Carso plateau, blew up stores which they could not save, and retreated by forced marches into the Italian plain behind the Tagliamento river. Udine, the great war base, was occupied by the enemy.

The enemy claim to have made large captures of guns and material, and there seems to be no reason why the claims should not be admitted. In a rapid retreat, the object of which was to save the army, there can have been little time for removing guns and stores.

The enemy can well congratulate themselves on this splendid blow. How they succeeded in piercing the Italian left is at present not known.[1] Whether the troops had been tampered with and their loyalty shaken by German socialistic propaganda, has not been explicitly stated. The defection of Italian troops has been mentioned by one correspondent. Whatever the reason, the Austro-Germans are at length in the Italian plain, and the Italians farther than ever from Italia Irredenta. (*3rd November*).

Turkey.

Germany—Turkey is only a partner in the concern—never reconciled herself to the loss of Baghdad. The loss meant the cold awakening after a beautiful dream of an empire extending from the Baltic to Persia and beyond.

The day after the fall of Baghdad the Russian revolution broke out in Petrograd, and the probability of a combined Russian and British attack on Turkey from Armenia and Mesopotamia vanished into the realms of remote possibles and improbables.

In the summer of this year Marshal Von Falkenhayn went to Aleppo, an important town in Asia Minor, where the Baghdad railway links up with the lines from Palestine. Large Turkish forces were concentrating there with the purpose, it may be presumed, of attempting to recover Baghdad when the summer heats had sufficiently abated. The British army before Gaza might also be attacked: but Germany–Turkey has no voice in the matter—cares more for Baghdad than for Gaza.

Two lines of advance on Baghdad are open to the Turks: the line of the Euphrates, and since the Russian collapse in Europe and the consequent weakening of forces in Armenia, the line of the Tigris. The British advanced base on the Tigris is at Samarra 75 miles north of Baghdad. From Nisibin, the terminus of the Baghdad railway on the Turkish side, the distance to Samarra is 150 miles by road to Mosul and thence 160 miles by river.

After the capture of Baghdad in March, General Maude extended his defences east along the Dialah to Sharoban (taken 19th August), west to Feluja on the Euphrates, and north to Samarra the terminus of the railway.

While Falkenhayn was maturing his plans and gathering his forces, Maude largely discounted his chances of success by getting in a timely stroke at a Turkish army on the Euphrates. 20 miles above Feluja the Turks occupied the town of Ramadie. On the morning of 27th September the British surprised the Turkish outposts south of the town; cavalry swept round to the north and cut off the retreat of the enemy up the river towards Hit, and the Turks were trapped. An attempt to break through the ring on 29th was frustrated. Ramadie fell, and with the town were captured 3,500 prisoners, and 13 guns, and the whole Turkish staff.

Not so long ago, Michaelis, the German chancellor—for a wonder it was not the Kaiser—boasted of the great deeds which the Turkish armies were going to perform.

The Navy.

On 29th October Mr. Lloyd George moved the following resolution in the House of Commons: "That the thanks of the House be given to the Royal Navy for its faithful work upon the seas during more than three years of ceaseless danger and stress, while guarding our shores, and protecting from the attacks of a barbarous foe the commerce on which the victory of the Allies depends."

During the three years of war, the British Navy has transported across the seas:—13,000,000 men; 2,000,000 horses; 25,000,000 tons of explosives; 51,000,000 tons of coal and oil fuel. Of these 13,000,000 men, only 2,700 have been lost through enemy action. In addition, 130,000,000 tons of food and material of all sorts have been

[1] On 19th Nov. Mr. Lloyd George announced in Parliament that the Italians had lost 2500 guns! (1st Dec.)

transported in British ships. The figures speak sufficiently.

The German navy has transported across the seas :—men *none*, explosives etc. *none*, coal and fuel *none*, horses *none*.

Who rules the waves ?

Since the beginning of the war to 1st November, between 40 and 50 per cent, nearly half, of the German submarines operating outside the Baltic have been destroyed. During the last three months, as many have been destroyed as during the whole of 1916.

The German Admiral Von Scheer admitted some time ago that two or three submarines a month failed to return to their bases. The German Admiral dare not tell the whole truth ; he understates his losses in the same degree and with the same purpose as he overstates the British mercantile marine losses. The German public were told in February that submarines would bring Britain to her knees within three months ; on that chance which they took for a certainty, the public viewed with complacency America's entry into the war. Britain, after eight months of submarine operations, is as strong as ever : not a ton of explosives has been delayed on its way to France by submarines. Confronted with this failure of her last effective weapon, Germany must conceal the facts or distort them according to the expectations which she has raised among her population. Submarinism has failed, and a most powerful enemy has taken up the challenge. The only course open to the German leaders is to publish fictitious accounts of British losses and German gains, and to exhort the public to keep smiling, for *this* month will surely see *the* Enemy conquered. *This* month never comes.

Next Spring the task of encouraging and deceiving will be complicated by victories to the account of the Americans, which will also have to be explained away or made to read like defeats. And so on to the end, the Germans will keep winning all the battles on sea and on land, till the public open their eyes and find themselves duped and defeated beyond recovery. Deceit is a difficult game to play consistently.

Conclusion.

The year which ends—has been a year of great hopes and great successes, and of great disappointments.

There were signs, when the year opened, that led to the hope,not without solid foundation, that Germany was doomed in 1917. A great plan had been arranged for a simultaneous attack on all the fronts, West, South, and East —West and East especially, where the two great forces would have acted like the claws of a pair of pincers. The West was fully prepared ; Russia, at the expense of the Allies, was magnificently equipped. The Russian Revolution broke out, and the combined attack failed. The West, however, did its allotted task ; its accomplishment has been told.

Italy did well in her Summer campaign, and then lost in a day the results of many months of arduous fighting. Yet even this loss may be turned to good account, if she can hold up the enemy till the western Allies bring up regiments of the same breed of men as held Ypres and Verdun. The disaster may yet be made the basis for a campaign which will wear down the enemy's strength during the months when weather conditions necessarily impose limitations on the fighting in the West.

3rd November.

THE WAR. (Appendix.)

	West.	East. (Russia—Rumania.)	South. (Italy—Balkans.)	Naval.	Turkey.
August.	5th. The Germans continue to attack on the Craonne Plateau, without success. 10th. For the past ten days, violent German counter-attacks on the positions wrested from them in Flanders on 31st July. The British advance on a 3,500 yard front to a depth of 500 yards. 15th - 17th. The Canadians storm Hill 70 on the outskirts of Lens, and take 1,120 prisoners. Fighting in the suburbs of Lens. 16th. The British storm Langemarck (Flanders) and take 1,800 prisoners and 24 guns. 20th. The French storm the German positions before Verdun, from Avocourt to Bezonvaux, on a 14-mile front. Morthomme both peaks, Corbeaux and Cumičres woods, Hills 344 and 240, Champneuville taken; 5,000 prisoners.	8th. The Germans attack the Russo-Rumanian forces to the north of Focsani, with the object of cutting the forces into two. 10th. In the three days' battle the Germans claim to have taken 3,300 prisoners and 17 guns. 13th. Mackensen succeeds in crossing the Susitza in one place north of Focsani. But all his attempts to make further headway are defeated by the Rumanians. 20th. The battle still rages, but in spite of huge losses the Germans are kept at a standstill.	19th. The Italians attack the Austrian positions (Julian front) from Mt. Zilivah to the sea. 20th. 10,000 prisoners taken. 22nd. The first line Austrian positions from Plava to the sea stormed, 20,000 prisoners and 60 guns taken. 26th. Monte Santo stormed. 31st. The Italians continue to advance on the Bainsizza plateau, N.W. of Gorizia; 27,000 prisoners taken.	A Russian destroyer mined. A British destroyer mined in the North Sea. 16th. British light forces damage a German destroyer and two mine-sweepers in Heligoland Bight. A British liner sinks a German submarine. An Italian sea-plane destroys an Austrian submarine.	19th. Shahroban (50 miles from Baghdad, on the Dialah) captured. Extensive military operations rendered impossible by the intense heat. 118° F. in the shade registered.

	West.	East. (*Russia—Rumania.*)	South. (*Italy—Balkans.*)	Naval.	Turkey.
	21st. The Verdun battle continues; Regneville and Samogneux taken; total of prisoners 6,000. 21st. The British advance on a $3\frac{1}{2}$-mile front between the Ypres-Menin and Ypres-Roulers roads. 24th. The French continue to progress at Verdun; total of prisoners 8,100; 24 guns and 200 machine guns taken. 28th. The Verdun battle dies down; total of prisoners 9,500. The French have reached the outskirts of Beaumont village.				
September	For the past five months the Germans have been ceaselessly attacking the French positions on Chemin des Dames and the Craonne plateau. These attacks have been as costly as and more futile than those at Verdun in 1916. The Crown Prince in command. 8th. At Verdun the French storm Chaume wood and take 500 prisoners.	1st. The Germans capture Uxkull bridgehead and cross the Dwina. 3rd. The Russians abandon Riga to the enemy and fall back to Venden. 12th. The Germans have secured 40 miles of the Dwina defences, from the	4th. The crest and western slopes of Mt. Gabriele (4 miles N. W. of Gorizia) stormed by the Italians. 7th. Total captures made by the Italians since 19th Aug:—30,000 prisoners, 11,000 rifles, 322 machine guns, 145	1st. British scouts sink four German minesweepers off Jutland. A German submarine is interned in Cadiz harbour for the duration of the War. 5th. A German submarine sunk off the west coast of France. 19th. Near the Shetlands a German sub-	27th - 29th, British operations on the Euphrates result in the complete defeat of a Turkish army and the capture of Ramadie, (60 miles west of

	18th. For the past five weeks bad weather has held up the British in Flanders. The country is one vast quagmire. 20th. The battle of Flanders begins again. The attack opens on an 8-mile front from Langemarck to Hollebeke. A portion of this high ground and Zevencote captured; 3,200 prisoners taken. 25th. The battle of Flanders begins again on a 6-mile front. Zonnebeke stormed, and 1,700 prisoners taken. Total British captures for Sept.: 5,300 men, 377 machine guns, 57 trench mortars, 11 guns.	mouth to Friedrichstadt. Crisis in Russia. General Korniloff attempts to make himself dictator. The attempt fails. 30th. The German advance in Livonia halts. 22nd. Jacobstadt abandoned by the Russians, and 50 guns.	guns, 94 trench mortars. The Austrian casualties, at least 120,000. 30th. Slight advance on the Bainsizza plateau; 2,000 prisoners. In the Balkans the Franco-Russian forces advance near lake Ochrida.	marine sunk by a British liner, and another sunk by a British destroyer. A British destroyer sunk by a German submarine. A German submarine sunk by a British submarine. A Russian destroyer mined in the Baltic. Two German submarines sunk by the French.	Baghdad). 3,260 prisoners, 13 guns, 10 machine guns taken.
October.	4th. The battle of Flanders begins again on an 8-mile front on the Ypres-Roulers and Ypres-Staden railways. Polderhoek, Molenwarelsthoek, Crafenstafel, Reutel, Noordefhoek, Broodseinde, taken, and 3000 prisoners captured. 5th. Stormy weather impedes the advance. Total, 4,500 prisoners taken.	13th. The Germans land in the island of Oesel (the key to the Gulf of Riga.) By the 18th, the island is completely in their power. 21st. The island of Dago, which commands the entrance of the Gulf of Finland, occupied by the Germans.	Minor operations on the Carso and Bainsizza plateaux. 25th. Owing to Russian inaction, large forces of Austrians concentrate on the Isonzo front. The Italians yield ground on the northern edge of the Bainsizza plateau. The Central Empires apparently trying to repeat in	A British armoured cruiser (*Drake* 14,000 tons) torpedoed, but reaches harbour and sinks in shallow water. A German submarine sunk by U. S. destroyer. An Austrian destroyer captured by the Italians.	31st. Beersheba captured.

	West.	East. (*Russia—Rumania.*)	South. (*Italy—Balkans.*)	Naval.	Turkey.
	9th. The battle of Flanders resumed: attack from Broodseinde to Bixschoote, with the French co-operating. The French take Mangelaare and Veldhoek. The Allies reach the outskirts of Houthulst forest. 2000 prisoners taken. 12th. The battle of Flanders again resumed on a 6-mile front. 13th. 940 prisoners taken. Rain hinders the advance; and Sir D. Haig orders the battle to cease. 22nd. The battle of Flanders resumed; the French and British attack at Houthulst wood and Poelcapelle. 23rd. Battle of the Aisne. The French attack the German position north of the Aisne, on the Chemin des Dames ridge and astride the Laon road. Fort Malmaison, and the villages of Allemant, Vaudesson, and Chavignon captured. 8,000 prisoners, enormous booty including 70 guns, taken. The French now com-	This German success is the measure not of the German power but of the Russian collapse. The true measure of German power is in Flanders and on the Aisne. 24th. The Germans withdraw in Livonia towards the Dwina.	Italy at the end of 1917 what they accomplished in Serbia in 1915 and in Rumania in 1916. 28th. The Italian left wing on the Julian front pierced; the enemy reaches Italian territory. The Italians destroy the Isonzo bridges and withdraw. 31st. From the Alps to the sea (60-70 miles) the Italians in full retreat making for the Tagliamento river, 18 miles west of Udine. Gorizia and the conquests of two years on the Carso and Bainsizza plateaux abandoned. Udine occupied by the Austrians. The enemy claim to have made large captures of guns and stores; and there	A German submarine interned at Cadiz, escapes. Her officers had given their word of honour not to escape. A German raider lost in the Pacific. 13th-23rd. Naval actions in the Gulf of Riga, between German squadrons covering the landing of troops on Oesel and Dago islands, and Russian squadrons. A Russian Naval communiqué gives the losses: Germans, 2 Dreadnoughts, 1 cruiser, 12 destroyers and torpedo-boats, and numerous transports and mine-sweepers, put out of action, though their ultimate fate is unknown. Russians: the old battleship *Slava* and	

mand the plain of Laon. 25th-30th. Pargny, Filain, and Pinon taken. Total captures 11,000 prisoners, 200 guns, 222 trench mortars, 720 machine guns. 26th-28th. The battle of Flanders resumed. The British with the French on the left, attack from Houthulst forest to Gheluvelt. Progress made towards Passchendaele; the battle fought in flooded fields and driving rain. The French take Merckem, Aschoop, Luyghem, Kippe. Total of prisoners taken, 1100; and 18 machine guns. 30th. The battle of Flanders resumed; British reach the outskirts of Passchendaele.		seems to be no special reason why the claim should not be admitted.	a large destroyer sunk. 17th. Two British destroyers sunk in a fight with two heavily armed German raiders. A British mine-sweeper and two armed liners torpedoed. A British destroyer sunk in collision. A German gun-boat destroyed by her crew in a Brazilian harbour.

3rd November.

NOTE.—Latest events :—

West.

2nd Nov. As the result of the battle of the Chemin des Dames (23rd Oct.) the Germans abandon their positions on the Ailette on a 20 kil. front, to a depth of 1 kil.

6th. The British storm Passchendaele.

20th. The British attack at Cambrai, and capture the enemy's defences on a 10-mile front to a depth of 6½ miles. 10,000 prisoners and over 100 guns taken.

Italy.

In the beginning of the fourth week of Nov. the Italians succeed in checking the enemy's advance on the Asiago plateau, the upper Brenta, and the middle and lower Piave.

Russia.

The pro-German peace party in power. Machinations for a peace at any cost.

Turkey.

7th. Gaza occupied.

17th. Jaffa occupied.

21st. The British within three miles of Jerusalem.

[*1st December.*]

*History in the Fortunes of Nigel.**

[*By* P. N. R. *II U. Class.*]

A vivid picture is left upon the mind of the reader of *The Fortunes of Nigel* of the life of the people of that age, their costume and their homes, their language and habitual daily thoughts. The supreme interest of the novel is historical; not that the historic element is its sole interest.

'It is useful,' says Mr. Makower 'to recall some of the circumstances under which the *Fortunes of Nigel* came to be written. While engaged in reading the poetry and the prose of the earlier part of the seventeenth century, Scott amused himself by writing a series of fictitious letters closely imitative of the style of the period. In these *private letters*, some of which were published, the genius of imitation capered nimbly and neatly. But Lockhart (his son-in-law and biographer) persuaded him to change the measure of the dance, or rather dance to a more profitable tune: those literary impressions could be gathered and exploited in a romance. The result was a narrative soaked with literary allusion. The story was a secondary matter, a mere peg on which to hang a garment made of scenes embroidered with the gilt thread of his experiences while he was reading the records of king James's reign, and entertaining himself by exercises in literary imitation.'

The following pages are an attempt to outline the chief impressions which the novel gives of society and of literature in the early part of the seventeenth century.

The literature of the reign of King James is only lightly touched on in the novel. In one place, Scott refers to the condition of men of wit and talent (*cf.* ch. xiii. p. 188). Their lives were so irregular and their means of living so precarious that one-half of their existence was spent in riotousness and debauchery, the other in a struggle to secure the meanest necessities of life. Two or three lost their lives by a surfeit of Rhenish wine and pickled herrings. The greater part of this history is a melancholy picture of genius degraded at once by debauchery and the patronage of rakes and profligates. Instances abound. Christopher Marlowe died before he reached his thirtieth year, stabbed, we are told, with his own dagger in a tavern brawl at Deptford. George Peele led a reckless and riotous life as a poet, dramatist, and actor; he died miserably. Greene left behind him the history of his pitiable life in his singular tract, '*A groat's worth of Wit Bought with a million of Repentance.* These instances suffice to illustrate Scott's reference to the condition of literary men in the age treated of in the novel.

In another place (*cf.* ch. xxviii p. 416), Scott refers to that species of literature which thrives best in the reeking soil and tainted atmosphere of an age of selfishness, immorality, and vice,—satire. Such an age was that of King James. The profligacy and dissolute life of all classes, the irreligion, and almost complete degradation of intellect,—all this gave venom and point to the shafts of those who were goaded by the spectacle into attacking the immoralities and vices silently yet rapidly sapping the foundations of both society and the state. A succession of writers arose whose mastery of sharp and stinging satire made their works the models of all subsequent attempts in this species of literature.

King James (ch. xxvii, p. 416) complains that satirical pamphlets are printed and published against him, and shrewdly forecasts the tremendous power of the press which in later times came to be acknowledged as the Fourth

* The Fortunes of Nigel, by Sir Walter Scott, Edited by Stanley V. Makower.

Estate of the Realm. He says, 'On my conscience I believe the tale of Cadmus was hieroglyphical and that the Dragon's teeth whilk he sowed were the letters he invented.' He continues in a prophetic strain, 'the Dragon's teeth are sown, Baby Charles, I pray God they bearna (*bear not*) their armed harvest in your day if I suld (*should*) not live to see it. God forbid I should, for there will be an awful day's kemping at the shearing of them.' The smouldering fire kindled by the satirical pamphlets of the roundheads during the reign of King James (1603-1625) consumed his unhappy son Charles I, not very many years later. Even during James's reign, literature came to be regarded as a political instrument.

Scott refers more at length to the growth of dramatic literature. Theatres already flourished under Queen Elizabeth, but the reign of James witnessed an increased output of dramatic literature. Burbage, the great actor, lived and played during this reign. In the novel, Lord Dalgarno (ch. xii, p. 185) and Lord Glenvarloch go to the theatre to see Burbage act, and Glenvarloch is enchanted by his superb impersonation of Richard III.

Scott refers (ch. xxxii, p., 480) to the translation of the Scriptures 'out the original sacred tongues.' This was perhaps the most important literary work in the reign. This translation became the literature of the people telling the poorest and simplest of the essential things of life in words which all could understand. If we find a typical picture in the crowd of London shopkeepers and 'prentices crowding the pit of the 'Fortune' or the 'Globe', we find one no less typical in the eager throngs gathered about the reader of the Bible in the nave of St. Paul's.

Literature undoubtedly reflects the social condition of a country at any given period; religion reflects it, as a rule, still more perfectly, for religion reaches strata of society often untouched by or not represented in literature.

England was then divided into two very distinct sects, puritanism or bigotry, and worldliness or irreligion. 'To one of these a man was obliged to surrender himself if he wished to to be a member of organised society.'

Puritanism at first, by its lofty ideals, its mystic presentment of life, its hard conditions of fellowship, drew to itself all those who had longings after goodness and purity. In its early and best sense, it stood for every sort of idealism; it raised life to a higher plane; it ennobled and strengthened the moral fibre of the nation; it implied, not so much a lessening of delight in life, as the purifying and deepening of all human affections. Such was Puritanism in its first beginnings. It was a deep, intense, national emotion for goodness and against everything artificial; very great, 'very glorious, tragical enough to all thinking hearts that look on it from these days of furs.'

But before long, even in the reign of King James, it fell from its high place. Puritanism identified itself with narrowness, with a mean view of joyousness in life. Men of the noblest minds became so anxious to uphold the right of conscience to rule, that they fell into the error of wishing to rule the world by their own individual conscience. It was no wonder, then, that many revolted against Puritanism. But there seemed to be no *via media*; it seemed necessary for every aspirant to the title of *gentleman* to avow himself an atheist and debauchee. 'Pleasure was exalted into worship, impiety into a creed.'

Scott reflects only a common sentiment of the day when he makes the gay young profligate, Dalgarno, reply to Nigel's protest against dissipation; 'Credit me that the Puritans who object to us the follies and the frailities incident to human nature, have themselves the vices of absolute devils, privy malice, and back-biting hypocrisy, and spiritual pride in all its presumption. The profligate adds a profligate's usual sophistry, 'There is much too in life which we must see were it only to learn to shun it.' He quotes Shakespeare for his purpose, as if Shakespeare held the opinion he puts in Falconbridge's mouth. 'Will Shakespeare who lives

after death and who is presently to afford thee such pleasure as none but himself can confer, has described the gallant Falconbridge as calling that man

> —a bastard to the time,
> That doth not smack of observation ;
> Which though I will not practise to deceive
> Yet to avoid deceit mean to learn.'
> (cf. ch. xii, p. 185.)

The court which gave the tone to polite society was anti-Puritan. 'All by the king's example lived and loved.' It is hardly necessary to say much of King James. 'Gentle King Jamie' is better in Scott than in most historians [cf. ch. ix & v]. His not too handsome figure and his ridiculous habits made him a fit theme for the satire of his subjects. His Scottish accent, his extravagant expenditure upon low forms of amusement, and his slovenliness and '*abandon*,' were not calculated to impress his courtiers or to please his people. Scott lays much stress upon the King's extravagance which history tells us involved him in many difficulties. He was more or less dependent upon the rich London goldsmiths—the precursors of the Directors of the Bank of England. He was so poor that he was forced to offer the hereditary title of baronet to any gentlemen of position who would give him a thousand pounds. In the novel, the retainer of the hero, Lord Glenvarloch, is knighted for the sum of two hundred pounds! (cf. ch. xxxii, p. 695.)

The court of James reflected the best as well as the worst features of the times. It was enlivened by the play of wit (cf. p. 156), the cunning epigram, the graceful sonnet, the classic citation (cf. p. 133), the affected chivalry, and the theological discussions of the courtiers. The courtiers were lewd, brutal and heartless, bent upon personal aggrandisement at the expense of their neighbours. This meanness is nowhere better reflected than in the connivance of the King with Buckingham to cheat Nigel out of his paternal estate.

The life of a man of fashion swayed between frivolity and excess. One of the comedies of the time tells the courtier that 'he must dress well, dance well, fence well, have a talent for love-letters, and an agreeable voice ; must he be amorous and discreet, but not too constant.' To graces such as these the dissipated courtiers of James added a shamelessness (cf. ch. xxxviii, p. 490) and a brutality (cf. ch. xxxvi, p. 527) which pass belief. In men such as these Milton found types for the Belial of his great poem, 'than whom a spirit more lewd fell not from heaven or more gross to love vice for itself, etc. (*P.L.* Bk. i. l. 490.)

Corruption was not restricted to the court; it was widespread. It tainted even the morals of the gentry, especially of those who lived in the metropolis, who aped the courtiers.

Fortunately for the age, Scott was able to show in Lord Huntinglen the honest God-fearing noble ; and in other ranks of society, Heriot, Richie, Nigel himself, and Margaret and Herminone show that *the soul of goodness* was still vigorous even in these bad times.

The reign of James witnessed another division in the country, that between the Scots and the English. As Scott pithily remarks, 'Prejudices between the Scots and the English were of course most inveterate during the reign of King James. His English subjects accused him of partiality to those of his ancient kingdom; while the Scots, with equal injustice, charged him with having forgotten the land of his nativity and with neglecting those early friends to whose allegiance he had been so much indebted (ch. iv, p. 46, ch. iii, p. 40).

The temper of the king, peaceble even to timidity, inclined him perpetually to interfere as mediator between the contending parties whose mutual hatred threatened a general convulsion. Spreading from the highest to the lowest classes, it occasioned debates in council and parliament, factions in the court, duels among the gentry, and riots and brawls among the lowest orders.

If irreligion and national feeling split up society into Puritans and anti-Puritans, Scots and English, there were

some generally prevailing vices that gave a unifying touch to society. Extravagance in dress and drunkenness stand out conspicuous. The prevalence of crime can easily be inferred from the disproportion between punishment and the offence. To be hanged, drawn, and quartered was the atrocious form of capital punishment. The rope, the rack, and the pillory were less odious to the people of those times than their names are to us to-day. Besides, the possibility of such an asylum as Alsatia in the heart of London, proves to evidence that the strength of vice could laugh to scorn the weakness of any authority that might command its destruction.

Vicious, rude, and ignorant as the age was, it was not without its redeeming characteristics. It witnessed the rising importance of the citizen class and the growth of colonisation. Innumerable references are made in the novel to the citizen class. They were becoming wealthy, and as Heriot says (ch. x, p. 145), 'our city money-bags can open sometimes to prop a falling and a noble house.' The king was more or less dependent on the London goldsmiths (ch. v, p. 64), and Nigel (ch. vi, p. 90) saw the 'entertainment of the wealthiest burgomasters on the continent fairly outshone by the hospitality of a London goldsmith.' There it was then, forming rapidly, what later on developed to an aristocracy of wealth.

Jenkin's words, "If they were to see on a plain field thirty thousand pikes as I have seen in the artillery gardens, it would not be their long-haired courtiers would help them I trow!" (cf. ch. xxv, p. 516)—proved prophetic in the civil wars later. Clarendon remarks that the military exercise of the citizens was severely felt by the cavaliers during the civil war, notwithstanding the ridicule that had been showered upon it by the dramatic poets of the day. Nothing but habitual practice could, at the battle of Newbury and elsewhere, have enabled the Londoners to keep their ranks as pikemen in spite of the repeated charges of the fiery Prince Rupert and his gallant cavaliers.

The reign was marked by a rapid advance in national prosperity and by a widespread increase in the comforts and luxuries of life. Among the people there were many causes of contentment. Improved methods of farming doubled the yield per acre; the domestic manufacture of wool greatly increased, and homespun came into favour. In many little ways, by the introduction of chimneys, feather beds, pillows, and the more general use of glass, the conveniences of living were greatly increased. The sea as well the land yielded a large revenue. Not only did English fishing-boats crowd the Channel, but hardy sailors brought back cod from the Newfoundland banks or tracked the whale in the vast solitudes of the polar seas.

England was laying the foundations of her future commercial and maritime supremacy. Colonisation was carried on on a large scale. Those who were dissatisfied in the mother-country, like our John Christie, the chandler, emigrated to America. Looking at this great time as a whole, we must see England as 'a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, or like an eagle mewing her mighty youth and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam.'

In *The Month*, October, 1917, the Rev. J. H. Pollen has traced the Simon Hunt who was Shakespeare's master for about four years, from Stratford-on-Avon to the Jesuits. We trust that the next number of *The Month* will give us further interesting information about Simon Hunt.

Explanations of Certain Words occuring in Tamil Inscriptions.

[*By* T. A. Gobinatha Rao, M.A., *Trivandrum.*]

It has rightly been remarked by Dr. Hultzsch, " It is still a popular opinion that a colloquial knowledge of one of the vernaculars with a slight smattering of Sanskrit is sufficient for editing successfully the records of bygone times. But this is an undertaking which, besides good linguistic attainments, requires careful training in the methods followed by the European School of classical philology." To this we may add that, for understanding the ancient documents which are couched in the language of their times, one should study their contemporary literature and comprehend therefrom the manners, customs and institutions of those periods. That without such a study one can never succeed in editing ancient inscriptions satisfactorily, will become patent from the following notices of certain words, customs, &c., which occur in ancient incriptions, and which have been misinterpreted by the editors of the documents in which they occur.

I. Vēḷaikkārar.

This is one of the words which occur very frequently in South Indian Inscriptions ; *e.g* :—

1. Perundaṉattu-valaṅgai-vēḷaikkāṟar.
2. Śiṟudaṉattu - valaṅgai - vēḷaikkāṟar.
3. Aḻagiyaśōḻa - terinda-valaṅgai-vēḷaikkāṟar.
4. Rājarāja-terinda-vēḷaikkāṟar.
5. Vikramābharaṇa - terinda - vēḷaikkāṟar.
6. Vēḷattu-peṇḍāṭṭi.
7. Tañjāvūr Kīḻai-vēḷam.
8. Āṉaimēṟṟuñjiṉār-vēḷam.
9. Abhimāṉabhūshaṇa - terinda-tiruvandi-kāppu vēḷam at Tañjāvūr.
10. " Vīragaṅgaṉ vēḷaikkāṟaṉēṉ... ivaṟku piṉbu Śāvādē-irundēṉāgil ōḍippō [gum] vēḷaikkāṟaṟku eṉ miṉāṭṭiyaikkuḍuttēṉ āvēṉ", meaning, " I (am) the vēḷaikkāṟaṉ of Vīragaṅga; if I do not die after him (his death), I shall be deemed to have given over my wife to the (cowardly) runaway vēḷaikkārars ".

    No. 129, Kolar Tk., Kolar Dt., *Ep. Carn.*

11. Ātan pati-bhakti-saman-
    vītan Ballāḷa-bhūmipālaṅge jagat- |
    pūta-charitram koṭṭam
    vīta-bhayam bāsheyam pratāpa-vinūtam ||
    toḍaram dēsige kāloḷ ikki paḍed arttham bīsaram-bōgadant-
    oḍalam rakshisi nambid-āḷdan-eḍaroḷ mattondu santānamam
    piḍiv-udyōgadin irppāmātyar eṇeye Ballāḷa-dēvaṅge-saṅ—
    gaḍav-entappeḍyalliyam Kuvara-Lakshmam tāne tātparyadim. ||

" He gave his word to king Ballāḷa that he would keep him free from fear. Not like ministers who, binding a toḍar on the leg as a decoration, guarding the wealth they obtain as if fearing to lose it, taking good care of

their person, in the time of trouble to their master accept service under another family, Kuvara-Lakshma remained faithful to king Ballāḷa in all circumstances."

bare su-bhaṭōttamar kKuvara-
Lakshma-chamūpatig ittu bhāsheyam
dhare pogaḷvannegam neṟapuv aggada vīrar ad ondusāsiram ||
toṟed āḷdan-oḍane sāyade |
peṟag uḷidam toṟedu satt avana vēḷe dalā- |
v aṟivēv adan emba gaṇḍara |
toṟedar kkali-Kuvara-Lakshman-oḍan ati-su-bhaṭar ||

No. 112, Bēlūr Tk. Hassan Dt.,
Ep. Carn.

"But the general Kuvara-Lakshma had heroes so bound (by oath) to him to the number of one thousand. Those who abandoned instead of dying with their ruler, and escaped—such have we truly known, but not such as gave up their lives and died at the same time with him, the exceeding great warriors."

12. The act of *Vēḷaikkārars* is described in No. 138 of the Madras Epigraphist's Collection for 1912. In the remark against this number, the Epigraphist writes thus:—"Gift of 90 sheep for a lamp by Gaṅgaikoṇḍaśōḷan *alias* Uttamaśōḷamārāyaṉ of Tiruvārūr in Tiruvārūr kūṟṟam which was a sub-division of Kshatriyaśikhāmaṇi-vaḷanāḍu, for the merit of a certain Gaṇavadi Iḍumbaṉ *alias* Taṉṉai-muṉivār-peṇḍirgaṇḍa Viśaiyaraiyaṉ who stabbed himself and died in (order to relieve) the distress of the donor." No. 141 of 1912 also refers to the deceased, and the Epigraphist comments on the inscription thus: "The chief Gaṅgaikoṇḍāṉ Uttamaśōḷa Mārāyaṉ is again mentioned in No. 138 of Appendix B. His military subordinate, who, according to No. 141 of Appendix B. was Kūttan Gaṇavadi, receives in this record his full designation Gaṇavadi Iḍumbaṉ *alias* Viśaiyaraiyaṉ, 'the husband of the wives of his enemies'. Gaṇavadi stabbed himself and died, apparently, for securing safety to his master by his act of self-sacrifice.........".

13. The word *Vēḷaikkāra* occurs in half a dozen places in the *Mahāvaṁsa*; the learned translator of this work, Mudaliyar Mr. Wijesimha, understands the word to mean a band of mercenaries; that this interpretation of the word is just the opposite of what it actually means, will become patent by and by. In one place (ch. 60, v. 36) the Vēḷaikkārars are said to have rebelled against their generals and killed them; in another, two rival kings send emissaries to vitiate the feelings of the Vēḷaikkāra army of the ruling king and succeed in estranging them from their master. If *vēḷaikkārars* means a body of mercenaries, it is not necessary to take all the trouble to alienate them from their then-master; all that had to be done was to offer better emoluments to them and this ruse would have better succeeded than sending emissaries to preach disaffection against their master. That the *vēḷaikkārar* were the most important section of the army and therefore it was first necessary to gain them to their side by foul means is quite patent.

14. *Vēḷaikkārars* occurs in an inscription at Polannaruwa (No. 600 of 1912) which belongs to the reign of the Ceylon king Vijayabāhu (I) Siri Saṅgabōdhi and records the "construction of the *dhātu-bhavana* for the sacred tooth of Jina, in the city of Pulasti and invokes the members of the

Vēḷaikkāra army to protect it . . . . . By way of remuneration one *vēli* of land was assigned to each individual member (of the *Vēḷaikkāras*) and all agreed thus: 'We protect the villages belonging to the temple (*paḷḷi*), its servants, property and devotees (*abhayampukkār*),* even though, in doing this, we lose ourselves or otherwise suffer ". The *Vēḷaikkāras* that agreed to protect the *paḷḷi* went by the name, according to the Epigraphist, of *Mūṉṟukai-vēḷaikkārars;* the Epigraphist further adds, "We are further informed that the Vēḷaikkāra community consisted of the *valaṅgai, iḍaṅgai, siṟudaṉam, pillaigaldanam, Vaḍugar, Mālaiyāḷar, Parivāraka-kondam* and other working classes." †

The word has been variously interpreted by various scholars. The passage

பெருந்தனத்து வலங்கை வேளைக்காரப் படைகள்,

occuring on pp. 97-98 of the *South Indian Inscriptions*, volume II, has been translated by Dr. Hultzsch and Mr. Venkayya thus:—'the troops of servants of the right hand of the large treasure'. Again,

அவன் மடக்கொடியை வேளம் ஏற்றி,

(*S.I.I.* Vol. III, pp. 217-210)

as "caused his (young) wife to enter (his) harem"; to these they add two notes which run as follow:

1. "வேளைக்காறன் seems to be a corruption of "வேலைக்காரன்" and

2. "The word வேளம் is not found in the dictionaries. It is perhaps connected with *vēḷ*, *kāma*, desire, lust"

In the first of these notes there is an unwarranted change of two letters *ḷai* and *ṟa* into *lai* and *ra*: while in the other, quite a different meaning is sought for the word in in the root வேள், to desire, which is equally absurd.

From the extracts given above one can see that the word *Vēḷaikkāṟar* means persons who had pledged themselves to do certain duties failing which they would voluntarily undergo certain penalties, which in most cases was death.* From the Kannaḍa inscription of Bēlūr quoted it is patent that the *vēḷaikkārars* distinguished their person from those of others by tying a *toḍar* round their left ankles. A *toḍar* is a chain-ornament which is also worn by heroes and was worn by the *vēḷaikkaras* as a token of their future heroism in the service of their masters. The *Vēḷaikkāras* may be of both sexes and of any caste. There were no doubt some fellows among them, who cast away their obligations to the winds and continued to survive their masters. Dr. Kittel gives the meaning of the word *vēḷaiy-āḷu* as 'a watchman'. He feels also inclined to correct it into *vēḷaiy-āḷu*, which is evidently unwarranted.

Mr. Krishna Sastri rounds a paragraph of his Annual Report with the observation, "Whatever the *vēḷaikkāras* may have been in their religious creed, it is clear from what is stated in the inscription that they included all working classes and were apparently of Indian origin who immigrated into Ceylon with the merchants whom they served." This explanation outdoes those of all others; evidently Mr. Sastri is inclined to take the *vēḷaikkārs* as a *community* of men (as he often describes them in his Reports), but of

* *Abhayampukkār* does not mean devotees but those that take refuge under the king or the *vēlaikkarars.*

† Evidently the Epigraphist makes some serious mistake in understanding the passage in the inscription. It very probably states that the *Mūnrukai-vēlaikkārars* consisted of the valaṅgai-vēlaikkārars, the idangai-vēlaikkārars and those that did not belong to the two former classes, who were recruited from among the Vadugar, Malaiyālar &c., nationalities.

* See below, the S'rirangam inscriptions, which clearly indicate the spirit of these *Vēlaikkārars.*

different religious creeds and of various professions and peculiarly Indian in their origin. It will become patent from the sequel that the class of men known as *vēḷaikkārs* were distinguished for their loyalty to their masters and that no attempt need be made to identify them with any particular community, caste or creed.

The latest attempt at discovering the exact connotation of the word *Vēḷaikkārs* is found in the Introduction to Volume II, *South Indian Inscription*, by the late Mr. Venkayya. He says, "At any rate the origin of the term is obscure and must be left to future research. The *Vēḻaikkāra* troops are frequently mentioned in the *Mahâvaṁsa*. The term *vēḷaikkāra* is explained by Mr. L. C. Wijesimha as 'a body of mercenary troops employed by the Singhalese.' They figure in the history of Ceylon towards the close of the 11th century A. D. during the reign of Vijayabāhu (A.D. 1065-1120). They were despatched on an expedition against the Chōḷa country, but refused to proceed and rebelled. Eventually they were subdued by the Singhalese king. This mention does not throw much light either on the origin or on their history in the Chōḷa country at the beginning of the 11th century. It is possible they were no mercenaries in the Chōḷa country but regular soldiers. If a conjecture may be offered, I would say they were perhaps volunteers who enlisted when the occasion (*vēḷai*) for their services arose. In later times when their services were not required in the Tamil country, they probably migrated into Ceylon during the period of interregnum when there were frequent Chōḷa invasions against the island. Eventually they probably developed into mercenaries". It is futile to heave out conjectures in explaining the meaning of words; we should either make certain from literature and other sources, or not give their meaning.

As regards the exact meaning of the term *vēḷaikkāra*, contemporary literature alone must help us. The word occurs in the great commentary of Periyavāchchāṉpillai on Nammāḻvār's *Tiruvāimoli* thus:

இவர்தாம் பூவேளைக்காரரைப்போலே, இவைகாணாதபோது கைமேலே முடிவா ரொருவரிறே :

(these are like the *pū-vēḷaikkārars*, who die when they do not see these, that is, the objects of their care).

The gloss on the commentary explains this passage thus:—

பூவேளைக்காரராவது ராஜாக்கள் ப்ராப்தகாலங்களிலே பூச்சூடக் காணாவிட்டால் தங்களைக் குத்திக்கொண்டழியும்படி பரிவராயிருக்குமவர்கள்.

"Pūvēḷaikkārars are those who, when they see the king being without flower (garlands) at the time when he ought to wear them had vowed to stab themselves and die."

A further explanation on this gloss reads as follows:—

பூவேளைக்காரராவது ராஜாக்களுக்குத் தத்காலங்களிலே பூவிடாவிடில் குத்திக் கொண்டுமுடியுமவர்கள். 'இவை கை மேலே காணாதபோது முடிவா ரொரு வரிறே' என்று ப்ராக்ருதார்த்தங்கண்டு கொள்வது; கைமேலே முடிவார்—யுத்த த்திலே முடிவாரென்று சாட்வர்த்தம்.

The above passage is nothing but an expansion of the previous one, wherein, the author of this passage adds what he thinks to be the prose order of the previous passage, which is certainly not right.

The word *Vēḷaikkārar* occurs in the commentary on the *Śrivachanabhūshanam*, where it is explained thus:—

ராஜத்ரோகம் பண்ணினாரை நலியும் சேவகர்.

"The servants of the king who chastise those who prove traitorous to him."

The institution of the *Vēḷaikkaras* is not one of merely a bygone period,

It was in existence till very recently on the West Coast of the Madras Presidency, a land very remarkable for the preservation of all ancient institutions, manners and customs. In modern Malayāḷam (of the 18th century A.D.) the *Vēḷaikkaras* were known as the *chāvars* and Mr. Logan explains this word thus:—"The proper Malayāḷam term for such men was *chāvar*, literally, those who took up, or devoted themselves to death"; and again, "the Chāvars —men who had elected to die in a desperate endeavour to cut their way through the Zamorin's guard to kill in revenge for his superseding their master, Waḷḷuvanāḍu Rājā." Mr. Logan quotes a passage from Purchas which runs thus:— "The king of Cochin had a great number of gentlemen which he calleth *Amochchi*,* and some are called *Nairi*; those two sorts of men esteem not their lives anything, so that it may be for the honour of the king." There is a very interesting account of the innumerable endeavours of the *chāvars* of the Waḷḷuvanāḍu rājā in wreaking their vengeance on the Zamorin, narrated in his *Malabar District Manual* by Mr. Logan.

The *vēḷaikkāras* have their parallel in Japan and perhaps also in China. When the late Emperor of Japan died, Count....... committed suicide in accordance with the old custom of the land. Such devotion to their master ending in suicide at his death is called by them *harikari*.

The *Mahāvaṁsa* records instances of the followers of a king or chief killing themselves when their master died. When Mahinda found it impossible to conquer the army of the Pāṇḍyas, and not wishing to be killed by the hands of the enemy, "cut off his head even as he sat on his elephant, when many of his faithful followers, seeing this, cut off their heads also; and the Tamil hosts rejoiced and were exceedingly glad thereat."

There are three inscriptions in the Śrīraṅgam temple in which three men, namely, Nāyaṉ *alias* Aḻagiyamaṇvāḷa-mārāyaṉ, Kidārat-taraiyaṉ and Ulagaṉ *alias* Aḻagāṉai-chchōma-mārāyaṉ take a vow that they would die when Akaḷaṅkanā-ḍāḻvāṉ dies, and if they did not, they should be considered to have given their wives to Pariahs and to have married their own mothers.*

The Tamils were a hardy race and were very keen soldiers. To them life meant nothing, but loyalty was all in all of their existence. They prayed intensely to the goddess Durgā (Kāḍukiḻāḷ or Kāḍugāḷ, as she is known to them) for the success of their lords against their enemies, and on such occasions vowed to offer their heads§ or limbs$ to her, if she secured success to the arms of their masters. After the event was over, they sometimes deferred fulfilling their vows, and the priestess of the goddess would then become possessed by her and demand the fulfilment of the vows, and the sturdy *maṟavars* would no more delay in carrying out their promise to the Vana Durgā. Acts

* Perhaps *amaichchu*=ministers.

* Sendamil, Volume III, pp. 255. The inscriptions read as follows :—

(*a*) வீற்றிருந்தான் சேமனான அகளங்கநாடாழ்வாற்கு திருவரங்கத்து கைக்கோளமுதலிகளில் நாயனான அழகிய மணவாளமாராயனேன், இவற்கு உடன்வேளையாகச் சாவக்கடவேனாகவும். இவற்கு பின்பு சாவதே இருந்தேனாகில் என் பெண்டாட்டியைப் பறையற்குக் கொடுத்து எங்கள்ளம்மைக்கு நானே மிணாளனாவேன்.

(*b*) வீற்றிருந்தான் சேமனான அகளங்கநாடாழ்வார்க்கு திருவரங்கத்துக்கைக்கோளரில் கிடாரத்தரையனேன், இவற்கு உடன்வேளையாக....(The rest of the inscription is identical with *a*.)

(*c*) வீற்றிருந்தான் சேமனான அகளங்கநாடாழ்வாற்கு திருவரங்கத்துக் கைக்கோளரில் உலகனான அழகானைச் சோமமாராயன் இவற்கு உடன்வேளையாகச் சாவக்கடவேனாகவும் ..(The rest of the inscription is idential with *a* above.)

Even after reading these records, it is impossible for any one to fail to understand the nature of the relationship of the velaikkārars to their superiors.

§ உயிர்ப்பலி : See Tolkappiyam, Poruladhikaram, Com. on Sutra 59.

$ குருதிப்பலி do. do.

of promise such as the above are technically known to Tamil Rhetoric as *vanjinam.**

A beautiful pictorial depiction of the act of self-immolation is to be seen in the plate facing page 41, *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume VI; the scene represents the death of prince Nītimārgga, who is lying on a couch resembling the modern sofa. Over his head are three umbrellas representing royalty. Below the cot are two *pūrna-kumbhas* or perhaps vessels of water, etc., required for the patient. Near his head stands the faithful *mane-magattin* (the major-domo of the house of Nītimārgga), Agarayya, dagger in hand to stab himself as soon as the last breath leaves his master. The figure seated on the couch bearing on its crossed legs the stretched legs of the patient, appears to be the wife of the dying; for, she holds her left hand in the fashion in which women who committed *sati* with their husbands used to be represented in sculptures, as holding it, and this pose is technically said to be giving one's shoulder *tōḷukoḍuvadu*). But Dr. Fleet takes the figure as representing the son, Satyavākya-perumānadigaḷ, of Nītimārga, which identification appears to me to be incorrect.

At the gate of old forts, such as the one in Haḷebīḍ, (the Dvārasamudra of the Historians and the capital of the Hoysaḷas), there is generally to be seen a shrine for Durgā near one or more of their gates, to render facilities to soldiers who waited to offer sacrifices to the goddess. In Haḷebīḍ, I saw in front of the Durgā shrine situated near the fort gate, a stone figure of a man lying with its head cut off and placed towards the goddess. Pictorial representations of soldiers cutting off their heads could be seen in Mahābalipuram. In the Durgā panel in the Varāhasvāmi Cave, and in the Durgā panel in the rock-cut shrine of Durgā (reproduced as pls. CI. & C., in my *Elements of Hindu Iconography*, Volume I), we see two soldiers kneeling in front of the Dēvi holding in one hand their hair-tuft and applying the sword to their throat. Dr. Vogel in his Iconographic notes on the sculptures at Mahābalipuram, contributed to the *Annual Report* of the Director General of Archaeology for 1910-11 writes about these figures thus:—"At her (Durgā's) feet, on the proper right is a male, who with his left hand grasps his tuft (*chūḍā*) of hair which apparently he is in the act of cutting with a sword held in his right hand. Can the figures in this attitude refer to a hair-offering, a well-known practice of very ancient nations?". Such figures are found also in the Trichinopoly Cave in a panel which is quite identical with those at Mahābalipuram;* Dr. Vogel himself points out their identity and yet is inclined to take them as the donors of the shrines. Any one who notices these sculptures would not hesitate to pronounce the opinion that these kneeling figures are cutting their own heads and offering them to the goddess Durgā.

[*To be continued.*]

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* It is defined in the Tolkappiyam thus:—

துன்னருஞ் சிறப்பின் வஞ்சினத்தானும், and the commentary on it:—இன்னது பிழைப்பின் இதுவாகியரோ என இத்தன்மையதொன் றினைச் செய்தலாற்றேனாயின் இன்னவாராகக் கடவேனெனக் கூறிய வஞ்சினக் காஞ்சியானும். அது தான்செய்யக் கருதியது பொய்த்துத் தனக்கு வருங் குற்றத்தால் உயிர்முதலியன துறப்பனென் றல்.

The *Purapporul venbā-mālai* defines it thus:—

வெஞ்சின வேந்தன் வேற்றவர்ப் பணிப்ப
வஞ்சினங் கூறிய வகைமொழிந் தன்று,

and the following example is quoted:—

இன்று பகலோனிறவாமு னொன்னார்
வென்று களங்கொள்ளா வேலுயர்ப்பி—னென்று
மரணவியப் பாடு படையார்மு னிற்பேன்
முரணவிய் முன்முன் மொழிந்து.

காஞ்சிப்படலம், 9.

* See Pl. XXVIII, figs. *c* & *d* of the *Annual* of the Director General for 1910-11.

Posers.

1. *A.* "You say you thought of these jokes yourself?"

B. "Yes, sir!"

A. "Then you must be about two hundred and fifty years old next birthday."

N.B.—This is not to be 'thought on too precisely' in connection with this Magazine.

2. *A.* "It was a most wonderful performance. The acrobat swung himself on to a trapeze fifteen yards high, then he swung himself up until he stood on a rope, at least one hundred and twenty feet above our heads."

B. "I am of opinion that a man *lowers* himself when he goes in for an acrobat's work.'

3. *Advertisement.* "Wanted a young man to look after a garden and a cow who has a good voice and is accustomed to sing in a choir."

4. *Head-master.* "That new boy seems to be a hard worker."

Master. "Yes, that's his speciality."

Head-master. "What, working?"

Master. "No, seeming to work hard."

5. *Little Johnny Conceit to his teacher.* "Sir, this is the best piece of English I have ever written."

Teacher. "Is it? I am sorry to hear it; but do not be discouraged."

6. *A.* Help! help! A boy has fallen into the mortar up to the ankles.

B. Up to the ankles! Then he can walk out.

A. But he went in head first.

7. *A.* Look here, you have a big tear in your coat, you must get it mended.

B. No, no; not mended. A tear may be the result of an accident; a patch is a sure sign of poverty.

8. *A.* "Could you lend me five rupees, my good fellow."

B. "Certainly I could do lots of things I have no intention of doing. Nice day, isn't it?"

9. *A.* "What are the qualifications of a good card-player"?

B. "A good player must be cool, calculating, cunning, crafty, and have a touch of meanness in his disposition."

A. "Then why do you frequent such horrid people?"

B. "I nearly always win."

10. A country lad consulted a fortune-teller. "You'll be poor, kind sir, until you're thirty."

"And then?"

"Then you'll be used to it; you'll not be poor any more."

College Notes.

September, Sunday the 16th.—The members of the Catholic Truth Association held their Seventh Anniversary day. The morning meeting was devoted to the exposition and discussion of the principles underlying the devotion to the Blessed Mother of Jesus Christ. M. R. Ry. S. Arpudaswami Odeyar B.A., L.T. presided. In the evening fifteen members acted a drama *For the Crown*, translated from the French of the famous modern French writer F. Coppée.

September, Monday, 25th.—The celebration of the *Shashtiabdapoorthi* of H. H. Sir Rama Vurma, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., F.M.U., M.R.A.S., &c., &c., the Maharaja of Travancore, was held by the Malayalee students in Trichinopoly, in the Lawley Hall. M. R. Ry. S. K. Yegnarayana Iyer Avl., M.A., Principal Salem College, presided. A very interesting programme was gone through with all the enthusiasm of loyalty. The most important items were an address and telegram to His Highness, and a lecture on *Royalty* by M. R. Ry. K. S. Iyer Avl., B.A., B.L. The Toast to His Highness was proposed by Mr. M. P. Matthew. The meeting closed with a variety entertainment and *Vanchipattu*

October brought us trials and tribulations. Early in the month cholera appeared in town in a sporadic form. Isolated cases occurred in parts of the town most remote from each other. The cause of the outbreak seems to be still unknown. But it has been proved to evidence, by the results of analyses by the Government analyst at Guindy, by the military analyst at Bangalore, and the local medical analyst, that our town supply of water from the Cauvery contains no trace of cholera germs. Traces of faecal contamination in the same degree in which it has existed since the opening of the Cauvery water-works, is the only contamination pointed out by the three analysts. This trace of contamination is, has been, and will be present as long as the Cauvery flows through a peopled country, for people will continue to make an improper use of the banks of the river. This contamination, however, seems to have nothing to do with cholera; but it has to do with some minor ailments, and the more educated members of the community should do all they can to prevent it.

These considerations, out of place perhaps in our Magazine, have been made particularly cogent by the trials we have just undergone.

On the 12th October, a II University Class boarder got cholera. On the 13th another boarder, also of the II University Class, was taken ill. Both cases seemed at first slight; there was no alarm. But as no persisting signs of improvement appeared, some boarders asked leave to go home. The boy first attacked died on the morning of the 16th, and general leave was given to all the boarders who liked to go home to leave by the first trains. As anxiety and fears were on the increase among the students in the hostels, the College was closed at the evening session of the same day. The same evening the second boarder died.

The College resumed work on the 29th October.

These twelve days go by the unfortunate name of the cholera-holidays. Thanks be to God we have not heard that any one of our boys caried the germs of the disease home with him.

Since the third re-opening this term, we have had no case in the College. But one of our students in the I. D. F. who had come to the College for the Rector's Day, developed symptoms of cholera, and shortly after his return to the barracks, died in the military hospital to which he had been immediately sent.

The students who are put up in the Kerala Lodge have all been spared to

us, but the manager of the Lodge and one of his assistants died. Our students were put to much inconvenience to seek for securer quarters in town; some of them who could not find accommodation, had to interrupt their studies and go home.

The health of the town is now improving rapidly. We are in hopes that the term will close without further casualty, and that after the Christmas holidays all will be able to return to Trichinopoly again with their usual confidence and their usual eagerness for work.

The Rector's Day, College Day and Distribution of Prizes.

November, Monday, 12th, 4 P. M., the staff and students of the College and School assembled in the Lawley Hall to present their greetings to Rev. Father Rector. The occasion was somewhat peculiar. For eight years Rev. Father Bertram had received the greetings that usher in the festivities and celebrations that distinguish the Rector's Day from other days in the year. This time it was Rev. Father Carty who received the greetings of the staff and the students. As, however, a change of rectors is with us something like the accession of a new king in England,—" The King is dead. Long live the King " !—the proceedings in this meeting were very much like the proceedings in former years. The address presented by the staff was particularly interesting and complimentary, for our new Rector is not new to the staff. He has been working with us on the staff for many years. The students, some of whom do not know him so well, showed much ingenuity in turning a compliment and much sincerity in expressing feelings of loyalty to the new regime. The little boys almost outdid previous performances in the scenes they acted and the kolattams they danced. In his reply to the addresses, Rev. Father Rector acknowledged that he had been sceptic about the utility of these complimentary meetings, but that during the performance his views had changed. He said that it is good for all the staff and the college and the school students to meet, and to see and to hear each other, all grouped together occasionally. He exhorted the staff and the students to aim constantly at developing friendly relations all round. What he would like to see would be as near an approach as possible to the spirit of family union reigning in the College.

On Tuesday, an unusually varied programme of sports took the crowd of eager competitors and equally eager spectators rapidly from early coffee to an excellent appetite for breakfast at 10-30. Some items, however, of the programme had to be put off till the morning of Sunday, the 18th inst.

In the evening at 5-30, the prizes were distributed. Rev. Father Rector presided. The Principal, Rev. Father Bertram, read the following report for the year 1916-17 :

The Annual Report.

IT is my duty and pleasure to place before you the record of the year 1916-17. I may say at the outset that the year gone by is not unworthy of its predecessors. I hope you will bear me out after hearing this report and join me in returning thanks to Him from whom all blessings come.

Strength and Attendance.

Last year's numbers for the Lower Secondary Department, the High School, and the College, were respectively 631, 593, and 988; these numbers have become in the year under review, 563, 667, and 1098 respectively. Our rolls show an increase of 22 in the B.A. (Hons.), 39 in the B.A. (Degree), and 49 in the Intermediate Courses.

I am not prepared to say that this continuous increase in numbers is matter for unmixed congratulation; clearly it cannot go on indefinitely. Most of our old students insist on their sons and relatives being admitted into their Alma Mater; almost every student brings with him a friend or two for admission; it is exceedingly difficult to stem the rush of candidates on reopening day. We shall, however, be obliged to restrict enrolment in the future, and we request parents intending to send their sons to this College to comply strictly with the conditions of admission.

In June 1916, the admission into the Junior Intermediate was made on the list of eligible candidates published by the Syndicate of the University. I admitted 286 candidates. I might have admitted 500 or more, had I been disposed to do so, for the number of applications I received was far beyond the latter number. Will it still be said that the reckless admission of unfit candidates is the cause of the failures in the Intermediate Examination?

The attendance has fallen by 2·56. The fall is probably due to the irregularity in attendance of second year candidates, who, being free from the Term rule, easily absent themselves from classes.

Staff.

The Rev. P. Carty, S. J., was appointed Rector of the College on 1st April. I am sure all our students, past and present, and all the friends and well-wishers of the Institution will join in offering him their congratulations and in wishing him every success.

The only change in the Staff is the substitution of Mr. G. V. Krishnaswami, B.A. (Hons.), as Mathematics Lecturer for Mr. S. Mahadeva Aiyar, B.A. (Hons.), a temporary Lecturer. Father M. Stephen, S.J. is added temporarily to the staff of the History Branch.

Examinations.

S. S. L. C 1917.

SUBJECTS.	AVERAGE.	
	School.	*Presy.*
A Group.		
English	42	36
Vern. Comp. Tamil ...	46	52
Vern. Comp. Malayalam..	39	43
Vern. Comp. Telugu ...	43	41
Elem. Mathematics ...	37	36
C Group.		
History of England ...	37	36
Algebra and Geometry ...	57	54
Physics	47	44
Chemistry	39	37
Tamil	38	42
Malayalam	49	44
Telugu	34	36
Sanskrit	40	40
Latin	56	38
Bk.-Keep. & Com. Arith. ...	37	44
Com. Pract. & Geography..	49	44
Precis-Writing & Ind. ...	22	35
Shorthand & Type-Writ....	47	33

No. Sent up.	No. declared eligible for College Course.	P. C.
189	98	51.8

UNIVERSITY.

Class.	No. sent up.	No. Passed. I	II	III (Completed a pass by passing in one part)	Tot.	P.C.
Intermediate:						
Group I	71	10	19	2	31	43.6
Group II	16	—	4	—	4	25
Group III	119	2	46	4	52	43.7
Total	206	12	69	6	87	42.2
Passed in Part I only	—	—	—	—	5	
" II "	—	—	—	—	62	
B.A. Pass: English	188	—	74	—	74	39.3
Group I	28	—	15	—	15	53.5
Group II-A	31	3	20	—	23	4742
Group II-B	7	—	3	—	3	72.8
Group V	102	2	75	—	77	5.4
Group VI	1	—	1	—	1	100.
Total	169	5	114	—	119	70.4
Honours: Branch I	8	4	—	2	6	75 *1 pass*
Branch II-A	9	—	7	2	9	100
Branch V	18	—	4	10	14	77.7 *4 pass*
Total	35	4	11	14	29	82.8
Honours Preliminary	44				35	79.5

We have good reasons to be satisfied with the results of this year's examination. Our Intermediate result, as it stands in the accompanying table, is gratifying compared with the Presidency average. I may however add that about 70 more candidates appear in the Pass list under the remark: St. Joseph's and Private study. In the B.A. Pass one of our candidates, James Ebenezer, heads the Pass list in Physics, and, in History Honours, another candidate from this College, N. R. Sattanathan, is bracketed first in the Presidency with a candidate of another College. B. Dasannacharia wins the Jagirdar of Arni Gold Medal for Physics, and in History and Economics S. Srinivasavedantachari wins the Northwick Prize. We congratulate these young men on their success.

Of the candidates sent up from our School for the Public Examination under the S.S.L.C. scheme, 189 appeared with the intention of matriculating, and 98 of them, i.e., 51·8 p.c., were declared by the Syndicate of the Madras University eligible for admission to a University course.

Hostels.

Some difficulties having arisen in the Students' Home, it was thought desirable to make some alterations in the management. Accordingly a Managing Committee was instituted consisting of members chosen from among the lay Staff with the Principal as President. I am glad to say that the members of this Committee stipulated from the outest that their services would be of a purely honorary character, a resolution which does them all the more credit that their duties are by no means light, and they can hardly do justice to them without sacrificing a considerable portion of their well-earned leisure. Mr. P. A. Ganesa Aiyar B.A., L.T., was elected Secretary to this Committee and is putting into the acccomplishment of an always hard and sometimes thankless task, his characteristic energy, devotion and thoroughness. The Committee is helped in its work by student-delegates, nominated by the President on the recommendation of the Committee. Their duties are purely advisory and consist largely in voicing the wishes of the members of the Hostels. The account books are open to these delegates, as well as to the members, for inspection, and the accounts are regularly audited once a month.

On the occasion of these changes, Mr. T. S. Krishna Aiyar, the Stud-

ents' Home Superintendent for the last 26 years, asked to be relieved of his duties. The authorities of the College desire to place on record their appreciation of his long and varied services to the Institution.

Field Games.

Our teams took part in a number of sporting events with varying success.

Football brought us one victory and one defeat.

Hockey, so far played only by our Boarders, has found friends outside the Boarding-house. A team consisting largely of day-scholars, won credit on its first appearance on the field and came off successful in the Trichinopoly Association Hockey Tournament.

With the return to College of our old champion, T. G. Singaravelu, tennis has come to the fore once more. Singaravelu has won fresh laurels at Trichinopoly and Salem. He stood a good chance of winning in the M. C. C. Tournament, had not ill-health interfered with the finals. In the College Tournament, Singaravelu left the field to his brother Sanjivi Rayan and allowed him to win the Rctor's Medal.

Our Badminton team won the Pentland Shield at Madura but lost the Trichinopoly Association Shield for Colleges. Our school team made up for this reverse by carrying away the Association Shield for Schools. The College Presidency Tournament was a huge success, as many as 30 teams taking part in it. The College Shield went once more to the Napiers, a well-known Madras team. Mr. Ramanuja Aiyangar, B.A., our popular Deputy Superintendent of Police, presided on the occasion, and Mrs. Ramanuja Aiyangar gave away the shield and medals.

In the Grigg Memorial Sports, the Grigg Memorial Medals for Colleges and Schools were won by students of this College.

College Societies and Magazine.

The Magazine calls for no special remark, but the College Societies did not do so well as in previous years. The members showed little inclination for, and took little interest in, the modest but useful work done in ordinary meetings by the students themselves, but went in for extraordinary meetings in which there was more show than utility. Besides, there are many societies in town which seem to have more attraction for students than the College Societies. The end of the year found the College Union in a moribund condition with little hope of revival.

Still, the competition for the Rector's Gold Medal for essay-writing, which could not be held for several years for want of competitors, was revived this year and the medal was awarded to K. N. Rajagopalan, III (Hons.)

The Elocution Contest was also held and aroused the usual interest among students. K. J. Cletus, II U. C. was awarded the first prize, and R. S. Srinivasan, III Hons., the second.

Libraries, etc.

There are 10,170 books in the College library, and 5,271 in the School library.

I need hardly remark that, as an effect of the war, the libraries and all the other departments are more or less paralysed, as it is very hard to get supplies from home.

Acknowledgments.

It is now time to conclude this long report. But, before doing so, I wish to place on record the expression of our gratitude to all such as have placed us under obligations: to our devoted and conscientious Lay Staff; to the friends and well-wishers of the College that have so generously contributed to our prize fund; to our "Old Boys" whose gratitude and attachment are a com-

fort to us in the accomplishment of a task which is not always cheerful; to the Poor Boy Fund Committee for their untiring efforts on behalf of the poor boys of this Institution; to all those that have in any way contributed to maintain between Staff and Students the atmosphere of sympathy and good understanding which is and will, I trust, remain a distinguishing feature of this College.

I have to make a special mention of Mr. S. Rm. M. Ct. Pethachi Chettiar, who continues to do full justice to his reputation as the patron of poor boys; of Mr. C. P. Ramaswamy for presiding at the anniversary of the Poor Boy Fund and giving by his presence and his kind words great encouragement to the promoters of the fund; of Mr. Polak and Mr. G. A. Natesan for gracing the anniversary of the College Union with their presence; also, of Mr. A. K. Subramanyam, a merchant of this town, for the encouragement he gave to our students. This gentleman gave Rs. 30 for a prize to be awarded on the results of a free competition in English essay-writing. The subject, chosen by the donor himself, was: 'Obedience due to Elders'. The winners were B. K. Venkataraman among the seniors, and R. Krishnan among the juniors. The enlightened interest taken by a business-man in the work of students appears to us worthy of all commendation.

Finally, I thank you all, ladies and gentlemen, for having honoured us with your presence this evening.

The reading of the report was followed by the distribution of prizes.

The gold medals were won by :—

Sundaram Aiyar, N., The du Ranquet Medal for Mathematics.

Dasannachari, B., The Father Sewell Medal for Physical Science.

Sattanathan, N. R., The Ripon Medal for History.

The College gold medal for English was not awarded.

The prize-giving was completed by a farce, a roaring piece of nonsense acted with great vigour and go by five boarders. They deserved the applause they received; it is the acting that really makes the value of a farce like the one played. The actors and the band gave us an enjoyable merry evening. Thanks and congratulations to both.

November 18, Sunday.—His Lordship, Dr. Faisandier, Bishop of Trichinopoly, visited the College. He conferred the sacrament of Confirmation.

At 10-30 P. M., he blessed the boarders' new refectory. We hope that when the building is completed and the portion of it already in use made thoroughly comfortable, the boarders will enjoy excellent appetite. As, however, it is probably superfluous to wish boarders any improvement in appetite, we shall borrow a wish from Shakespeare and say,

> "Now, good digestion wait on appetite,
> And health on both!"

The Catholic staff and the Catholic students read addresses to His Lordship in the Lawley Hall. In his reply, His Lordship felicitously referred to the political split now causing some party strife in the country. He deprecated a tendency to allow political divisions to divide Catholics into parties or sections, some more and some less loyal to the Church. We were very happy to see the Bishop in our midst again in the College where many years ago he lectured on political economy, as simple Father Faisandier.

Convocation.

November, 22, Thursday.—

The following is the list of graduates of St. Joseph's presented at Convocation 1917.

Presented for the :—

B.L. Degree. (12).

*Chakravarti, T.; Desikachariyar T. S.; Srinivasan, A.; Sundaram, K.; Balasubrahmanya Aiyar, K. T.; *Kuppuswami, Dasaratharama; Pichumani, T. S.; Rajagopalan, T. R.; Ramachandran, S.; Ramachandran, S. V.; Swaminathan, N.; Subrahmanyan, S.

L.T. Degree. (5).

*Ganesan, T. S.; Narayanan, D.; Nilakanta Sastri, T. V.; Visvanathan, N.; †Chellam, K. S.

M.A. Honours. (9).

*Chakravarti, T.; ‡Ganesan, T. S.; Joseph, Kattukaran, A.; *Kuppuswami, Dasaratharama; Pyle, Lentaparambil, M.; Ramachandra Aiyar, N. R.; Sankaran Nayar, M.; Saptarishi, L. S.; Srinivasachari, R.

M.A. Old By-Laws. (4).

§Chellam, K. S.; Haritirtam, M.; Muhammad Yusuf Ali; Vemban, K.

B.A. Honours. (25).

Branch I (Mathematics) (5).—*First Class* · Ramaswami, S.; Srinivasan, K. G.; Sundaram Aiyar, N. *Second Class*: Panchapagesan, K. *Third Class*: Rajamannar Krishna Rao, R.

Branch II-A (Physical Science) (7).—*Second Class*: Chattanatha Karayalar, S.; John, V. V.; Mandalam, K. S.; Natesan, T. V.; Paul, A. D.; Ramaswami, S. *Third Class*: Swaminathan, T.

Branch V (History and Economics) (13).—*Second Class*: Sattanathan, N. R.; Srinivasavedantachari, S. [*The Northwick Prize.*]; Vaidyanathan, S.; Venkatesan, A. E. *Third Class*: Arogyaswami, D.; Ramachandran, K. S.; Ramaiya, T. S.; Ramaswami, M. S.; Sundaresan, L. R.; Vasudevan, N.; Venkatachalam, C. S.; Verghese, C. Olashail; Visvanathan, S. (B.A.)

B.A. Degree. (109).

Group (i) Mathematics (16).—*First Class*: Harihara Aiyar, A. V. Venkataraman, P. C. *Second Class*: Gurumurtiswami, A. R.; Kuriakose, Chongimparambil Thomas; Narayana Aiyar, T. S.; Narayanaswami, Lakshminarayanapuram N.; Narayanaswami, S.; Panchapagesan, K.; Pasupati, E. T.; Philip, K. M.; Ramaswami, C. S.; Rangaswmi Aiyangar, R.; Sivaramakrishnan, M. R.; Subrahmanyan R.; Subrahmanyan, T. R.; Venkatasubrahmanyan, S.

Group (ii-A) Physical Science (16).—*First Class*. Ebenezer, S. James; Ramamurti, T. N.; Raman Nayar, M. *Second Class*: Hariharaputran, R.; Mahadevan, S.; Ponnuswami, S.; Ramasubban, V. K.; Ramaswami Aiyar, T. P.; Saumyanarayanan, R.; Srinivasan, N.; Subrahmanya Aiyar, K. V.; Subrahmanyan, M. Venkatarama; Subrahmanyan, N.; Sundaram, V.; Venkataraman, G.; Viraswami, S.

Group (ii-B) Physical Science (3).—*Second Class*: *Kandaswami, V.; Paramesvaran, T. R.; Sundaram, K. V.

Group (v) History and Economics (63). *First Class*: Sarangapani, R.; Swaminathan, V. *Second Class*. Balasubrahmanyan, R.; Bhagavatisikkaiyan, G. K.; Ganapathi, T. K.; Jivaratnam, G.;

* Also candidate for the MA (Honours) Degree.
† Also candidate for the M.A. Degree.
‡ Also candidate for the B.L. Degree.
§ Also candidate for the L.T. Degree.

* Since changed to Swaminathan, V.

Joseph, John A.; Joseph Reddi, Soma; Karunakaran Nayar, K.; Kasturiraj, R.; Kesava Aiyar, K. V.; Kochukrishna Pillai, K. V.; *Korattu, A. C.; Krishna Aiyar, Tarakad, V.; Krishnan, B.; Krishnan, S.; Krishnaswami, S.; Krishnaswami, Venkatarama; Kulattu Aiyar, K. S.; Kuppuswami, S.; Madhavan, K.; Mutturamalingam, M.; Narasimhan, E. V.; Narayana Aiyar, P. E.; Narayana Pillai, K.; Narayana Rao, R.; Narayanaswami, A. V.; Natarajan, T. R.; Natesan, L. R.; Natesan, N.; Nilakantan Thambi, M.; Padmanabha Menon, S.; Paramasivam, M.; Parameswaran Pillai, R.; Rajagopalan, R.; Ramanathan, K. R.; Ramanujam, S. T.; Ramasubbarayan, C. S.; Ramaswami, Natesan; Rangachari, T.; Rangaswami, V.; Sahasranaman, S. L.; Sambamurti Aiyar, M.; Sambasiva Aiyar, K.; Sambasivan, T.; Sankaran, Kadattur, V.; Sebastian Miranda, G.; Seshan, G. S.; Setumadhava Rao, C. R.; Shamsuddin, P.; Sivasubrahmanyan, S.; Subbaraman, T. S.; Subrahmanya Aiyar, P. N.; Subramanyan, K. S.: Subrahmanyan, T. R.; Subrahmanyan, V.; Susaimanikkam, V.; Swaminathan, G.; Vaidyanathan, V. B.; Varadachari, D.; Vembu Aiyar, B. K.; Yegnaraman, N.; Yegnaswami, M.

Group (vi) Languages other than English (1).—*Second Class*: Srinivasaraghavachari, P. K.

(Under Regulation 204) (4).

Branch I (Mathematics) (1).—Ramamritam, A.

Branch V (History and Economics) (3).—Costello, Arthur, L.; Gnanaprakasam, S. M.; Sankaran, N.

Old By-Laws (6)

Branch I (Mathematics) (2).—*Second Class*: Anantakrishna Aiyar, N. *Third Class*: Ramachandran, K.

* Since changed to Kuriyan, A. C.

† Also candidate for the L.M. & S. Degree.

Branch II-A (Physical Science) (1). *Third Class.* Rama Aiyar, Nurani C.

Branch IV (National Service) (1) *Second Class*: Srinivasachari B.

Branch V (History) (2).—*Third Class*: *Rangaramanuja Aiyangar, P. S. Sundaresan, N.

Degrees in Absentie.

B.L. Degree.

†Ambravanesvaran, S. (1916).

L.T. Degree.

Aravamudan, V.

M.A. (Honours).

Ambravaneswaran, S.; Joseph, Pettah, G.

M.A. (Under Transitory Regulations).

Mudaiya Pillai, C.
Since changed to 'Stephen, M.'

B.A. (Honours).

Branch II-A. *First Class.* Subbaiya, A. V. *Second Class.* Dasannacharya, Balebail [*The Jagirdar of Arni Gold Medal.*]

Branch V. *Second Class.* Raman Menon, P. *Third Class.* Ramaswami, T. G.

B.A. (Under Regulation 204.)

Branch I. Sankaran, V.

B.A. Degree.

Group (i). *Second Class.* Sankaran, A.; Saumyanarayanan, T. (1916); Srinivasarangan, R.

Group (ii-A). *Second Class.* Srinivasan, R.; Subrahmanyan, M. S.

Group (v). *Sceond Class.* Duraiswmi, K.; Ramanujam, A.

* Already passed Branch II-A.

† Also candidate for the M.A. (Honours) Degree.

Lieut. Francis V. PANIKULAM (II) I. M. S.

Old Boys.

We are glad to have this opportunity for offering our congratulations to M. R. Ry. M. R. Setu Ratnam Ayyar.

The Administration Report of 12th August 1916 contains the following appreciative note: "The President of the Karur Taluq Board reports that M.R.Ry. M. R. Setu Ratnam Ayyar Avl., has, as usual, proved an efficient chairman of the Kulitalai Union."

Efficiency seems to be a matter of course with our old friend Setu Ratnam.

In November 1916 he was elected Vice-President of the Karur Taluq Board. The following July he resigned the chairmanship of the Kulitalai Municipality, and was given independent powers as Vice-President of the Karur Taluq Board over elementary schools.

We hope that the skill and success which he has shown in the conduct of affairs at Kulitalai will soon be more fully recognized by his appointment to yet more responsible posts.

A. R. Sundaram, who was a student in the Intermediate Class, Group ii, 1916, has joined the Egyptain Expeditionary force, Red Cross Section, and is now in Egypt.

V. Ramaiya, who passed the Intermediate Examination in the first class from this College and then joined the Engineering College Madras, has passed the B. E. examination and won the *S. Subrayachariyar Medal* and the *J. A. Jones Prize.*

Lieut. Francis V. Panikulam graduated from St. Joseph's in 1911 and entered the Medical College, Madras. After a successful course of studies and passing all the examinations, he applied for a commission which he obtained, and he is now awaiting orders for the front, probably in Mesopotamia.

Obituary.

Radhakrishna Sarma of the II U. C. died suddenly in the night of the 6th Sept. He was very keen on enlisting in the I. D. F. and was to have appeared before the Medical Officer for examination on the 7th. To all appearance he was healthy and strong. He is praised for his cheerful serviceable character.

* * *

Syed Ali Husain Sahib was attacked with cholera early in the morning of the 14th October. He at once went home to Tanjore. We have not details of the progress of the disease. The boy's uncle, who wrote to the Principal on the 15th, was at the moment too burdened with grief to go into details. He tells us that the boy died on the evening of the 14th. We are very thankful to this gentleman for his letter and touched by his last lines. He says, "These are the last words that fell from the lips of the deceased, 'Do not fail to give information of my death to my respected masters.'"

Ali Husain was in the I U. C. He was a grave serious young man of about twenty years of age. He was deeply interested in the Mussulman

community to which he belonged, and it was for the sake of the community that he engaged in western studies. His favourite study was Hindustani, but he took kindly to English Literature and History. He took no interest in games and noisy gatherings of any kind. He was, however, of a friendly, affectionate nature. He would urge his Mussulman class-mates to go with him to his home in Tanjore, and he was always willing to give whatever help he could to anyone whoever he might be. The best proof of a good nature is to be willing to acknowledge one's ignorance and to seek for information useful or necessary. Ali Husain never hesitated to put a question to anyone, even to his juniors. If his parents lament the loss of a good son, his class-fellows lament the loss of a good friend, and his masters the loss of a very promising youth.

* * *

N. K. Lonappan, the first of the two boarders attacked by cholera, was a stout, strong, healthy lad of about twenty. The doctors thought, as we all thought, that his healthy constitution would carry him easily through the attack. He was one of those smart, lively boys who keep things going to the satisfaction of every one in a boarding house. He was always ready for a game at badminton, hockey, or football; always ready to help and even to take the lead in getting up parties or festivities. If at any time he could give help in the infirmary, he spared neither time nor fatigue in attending on and assisting the sick. He was a good student, clever especially at Mathematics; less advanced students made very large demands on his time, but he was always in the humour to do a service. But Lonappan had a temper, smart and violent even. When things proceeded, in preparation, for instance, of some social entertainment, not quite according to his views or whims, he would spare nobody. Irascibility seems to have been his besetting sin. But his delicacy of conscience and his thorough good nature made his repentance for any outburst of temper deep, sincere, and generous. He could not himself keep rancour or resentment against anyone, and when he had realized that he had given pain or offence, he would beg pardon with earnest humility, with tears even, until he obtained forgiveness and restored with an increase of cordiality the old friendly relations. Lonappan was conscious of this defect in his character, his proneness to give offence and to be harsh. Just before he died, he begged his friends around him to forgive him, and he commissioned his confessor to tell his fellow-boarders how he repented every annoyance his bad temper had caused them.

* * *

V. V. Joseph was taken ill later than Lonappan and outlived him about twelve hours. Till within a few hours of his death, he had, and so had all those around him, good hopes of his recovery. He was about as old as Lonappan, but not as mature in character. He seemed reserved and quiet, but now and then his boyishness would get the better of his reserve, and there would be an explosion of merriment, jokes, and tricks. But he seemed to know by instinct when and on whom he might play his tricks, for his tricks were always taken in the spirit they were played. Joseph never gave offence and never took offence. No wonder that, though not popular like Lonappan, he was a general favorite.

* * *

M. Adiekalaswami of Pondicherry died in the military hospital on the 15th November. He had a few days' leave from the barracks and came to the College for the Rector's Day. He lodged in the College, but messed wherever fancy led him; sometimes in the College, sometimes in one of the many hotels round about us. What struck his companions most was the interest he took in 'the patriotic movement of the day.' It was a resolve to fit himself to be of service to the country that induced him to overcome

the obstacles to his desire to enlist. Adeikalam was plain and outspoken on every subject that turned up. His remarks were such a mixture of the grave and the gay, that some think there was more naïvety in his character than philosophy. His character was not yet formed, but every one admits that his impulses, however ardent, were always generous. He understood almost from the beginning of his illness that he could not hope to live. He made all the necessary arrangements himself to have the chaplain of the boarders sent for and to have the usual rites of the dying duly administered to him.

* * *

Adiekalaswamy was an orphan, Joseph was an only son Lonappan has a brother studying in the College. Need we say that we sympathize with the relatives and parents of these dear boys whom they committed to our care? We think not.

* * *

This is the longest list of deaths we have had to record in The Magazine. We submit humbly to the will of God, and humbly and confidently trust that whatever be its manifestation, it is always what is best for the general good of the College and of the individuals summoned to give an account of their stewardship, however short or long the time allowed them to use the passing things of this passing world.

Exchanges.

Our Little Paper, September 1917: A special issue of 131 pages; very copiously illustrated with good pictures of the principal buildings, sights and scenes, and famous men, both living and dead, of Travancore. The letterpress contains poems in Malayalam, Tamil, and Sanskrit, and gives an historical account of Travancore, and descriptions of its peoples, their customs and industries, and of the flora and fauna of the region. The issue succesfully realizes its special title, "*A Souvenir of the Shastipoorthi of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.*"

The Journal of the Kumbakonam College Literary Society, November 1917.

Blue and White, St. Joseph's College, Colombo.

Business Notes.

Subscriptions.—(i)Students, in the College Department, Re. 1 per annum; in the VI Form, As. 8 per annum: payable in two equal instalments to the College Writer, along with the second instalment of the tuition fee. (ii) All others, Rs. 1-8-0 per annum including postage. (iii) Single copies, As. 8.

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